

ECO Destination Management Services represented Aruba & Curacao in the USA

EAGLE BEACH – Recently ECO Destination Management of Aruba & Curacao represented the islands at two important US shows, ITME, The Motivation Show in Chicago and Taste of the Caribbean Marketplace, in Atlanta.

During the ITME Motivation Show in Chicago, ECO Destination Management of Aruba & Curacao approached a number of incentive houses with the idea of combining group travel to both islands on the same trip, pitching the novel concept as the ultimate incentive reward to professionals

who applied themselves achieving success for their companies.

Taste of the Caribbean Marketplace was organized in Atlanta as a special promotion by the Marriott Hotels on Aruba, Curacao, St. Kitts, St. Thomas, Grand Cayman and Cancun, promoted the culture and cuisine of the islands to more than 100 travel agents and meeting planners.

ECO Destination Management President & CEO Wichita Villacres, was accompanied on both trips by the company's Director of Operations Glenda Henricus. □



The L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House welcomes Celebrity Chef Peter Vaulty

In preparation for the upcoming special fall menu



Oranjestad - L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House is gearing up for a special fall promotion, featuring a spectacular menu created by celebrity chef Peter Vaulty, co-owner of Red, the steakhouse in South Beach, Miami, Florida, and two restaurants in Cleveland, Ohio, Moxie, the restaurant, and Red, the Steakhouse. Vaulty will also serve as guest chef for the duration of the autumn special, kicking off on Friday, at the heart of town steak & chop house, located at the Renaissance Marina Resort. The special menu boasts a variety of contemporary classic appetizers, such as


Peppers stuffed with home made Italian sausage, Oysters Rockefeller and Steak Tartar, made of Certified Angus Beef Prime tenderloin, and Apple Salad with bibb lettuce and Westfield Farms goat cheese. As entrée, diners will be tempted by Steak Alla Oscar with fresh crabmeat, or dry-aged Prime Stripsteak blackened with charred pineapple or a cold-smoked Rack of Pork, accompanied by two seasonal sides of their choice.

Ensuring the ultimate in dining excellence, the beef dishes will feature Certified Angus Beef brand Prime, representing less than 1% of all US beef

production, available for the first time ever, in Aruba.

Also sure to please, the desserts which include a Double Dip Crème Brulee with chocolate mousse, Banana Cream Pie and Fresh & Hot Donuts with raspberry jam.

Each of the fall menu dishes will be accompanied by a special wine suggestion, available by the glass or bottle. To introduce the suggested wines, the restaurant recently held a wine tasting for its waiters and kitchen staff, introducing them to a selection of wines from Ravenswood Winery in Sonoma, California. Laura Hayes led the tasting of Ravenswood's full-flavored varietal wines, including a delicious Zinfandel, with the popular TV show Trend Alert filming the event. Later in the week Eric Wente, of Wente Wineries will be in Aruba to conduct a special wine tasting with staffers and invited guests.



Price of a barrel of petroleum

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↑0.48



Starting Friday, patrons are invited to savor the sizzlin' fall steakhouse menu for a prix fixe of \$58 p.p., and reservations are suggested. Joining Vaulty in our picture, Chef Gomez and Chef Lie-Kwie, the resident executives at the Renaissance Aruba Resorts Marina & Beach towers. Vaulty was selected for the task of creating the special fall menu by Certified

Angus Beef, as he has a special relationship with the organization – he even catered its anniversary celebration dinner, feeding 250 food connoisseurs.

Chef Gomez & Chef Lie-Kwie share Chef Vaulty's passion for food and promise to deliver an unforgettable dining experience this fall at the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House. □

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Are you game for game?

Season starts on Thursday October 15 at terrific Papillon Restaurant



PALM BEACH - Europeans love eating game. Pheasant, boar, hare and venison are considered the perks of fall, the season for the hunt. Controlled hunting keeps the balance between the species and special permits are therefore sought-after in many countries. The hunt used to be a royal sport where noblemen with packs of dogs and foot folk left their fairytale castles only to return to beautiful, graceful queens and princesses to present their

trophies. The most impressive heads were mounted and glorious tales about hunting days were told and re-told. Of course no one goes hunting here on Aruba. One won't see green-coated, feather-capped men with shotguns creeping through the countryside. The hunting season for us means that one is able, only for a limited time, to buy game. At Caribbean-French restaurant Papillon in The Village, the game season starts off with a

bang. Weekly specials might include Wild Pigeon Breast, Hare Loin Fillet, Pheasant, Venison, Deer Ossobucco and Stew of Hare courtesy of chef Bas. The special feeling of autumn, crackling fires and roasting chestnuts is conveyed in an unusual way by throwing the shells of peanuts on the floor. The uninhibited enjoyment of eating traditional, exuberant fare is honored at Papillon. The game season starts on October 15 and it goes on until after Christmas. Game used to be traditionally served with bones and all, but the modern consumer is more geared towards fillets and steaks. The 'back to nature' trend in eating points to enjoying game without heavy sauces and crazy side dishes; it wants you to savor the taste of the meat 'au naturel'. The traditional way of preparing game is an evergreen favorite as well. Papillon Restaurant is planning a series of specials honoring the age-old European custom

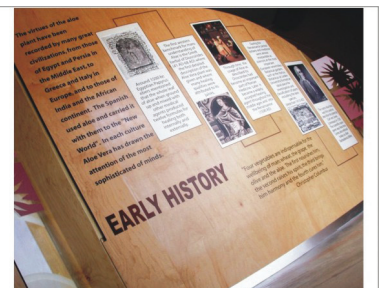


of eating game in the fall. the Radisson Resort on the Hi-Rise strip. □

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Who's The Big Winner At The Stellaris Casino?

Multiple Local Bingo & Jackpot Winners



PALM BEACH – After visiting Marriott's Stellaris Casino, guests went home happy and embraced Aruba's largest casino "Who is the Big Winner?"-motto once more, as loyal local bingo players won great door prizes during the "Bingo Hot Shot" promotion. During a raffle, six lucky players won cash prizes varying from \$75 to \$200 for Mr. Hubert Olbino, Ms. Myrna Camba, Ms. Teresita Tromp, Ms. Maria Werleman, Ms. Maria Chang and Mr. Arnold Advento. As a grand finale Stellaris Casino's management picked Ms. Mariana Sprock's name from the raffle drum as the Bingo Hot Shot of September. This entitled her to \$500 in cash, a dinner for two at Marriott's Champions Sports Bar & Restaurant and two free bingo cards for the month of October.

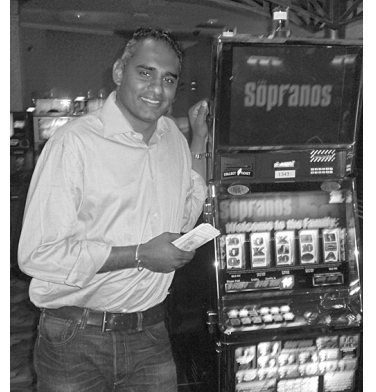


At the popular Sopranos slot machines in Aruba, Stellaris VIP casino guest Mr. Adjai Gokol got very lucky winning the jackpot of over \$8,000 in cash. The Stellaris Casino is the first casino in the Caribbean where you can play the exiting Sopranos slot machines. Due to the success of the "Hot Summer Car Give away" Promotion, the Stellaris Casino

started the "Pimp my Ride" car promotion on September 25th. With this new promotion you will make chance on winning a brand new KIA car valued over Afl. 50,000. In addition, casino guests can win Afl. 5,000 in cash prizes. To participate in this car promotion, guests have to earn 20 points for each free raffle ticket. This can be done by playing the many coinless slot machines in the Stellaris Casino. The final drawing for the "Pimp my Ride" car give-away is on October 30, 2009. More information on Aruba's largest casino and events can be found on www.stellariscasino.com.

The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes

provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com. □



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Brandon Hall of Littlestown, PA Takes Down UltimateBet's \$2.3 Million Aruba Poker Classic Main Event

Online Poker Qualifier From Littlestown, PA Takes Home \$753,330 in UltimateBet's Aruba Poker Classic



There must be something in the water in the Keystone State. For the second year in a row, a resident of Pennsylvania has won the UltimateBet Aruba Poker Classic Main Event. Brandon Hall of Littlestown, PA, conquered

the island poker tournament late Saturday evening, securing the first place prize of \$753,330. Hall's win comes one year after Matt Brady of Havertown, Pennsylvania won UltimateBet's 2008 Aruba tournament for a \$1 million

payday.

The Aruba Poker Classic returned to the Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino for the 8th year in a row. Online poker players were invited to win their way to Aruba for the Texas Hold'em tournament through low-cost satellites at UltimateBet.com from as low as \$0.10. The weeklong celebration of poker included a series of parties, nonstop poker tournaments, cash tables and unrivaled VIP treatment for top members of UltimateBet's RAISE program.

The island poker tournament also attracted a star-studded list of respected poker

professionals including Phil Hellmuth, Annie Duke, Joe Sebok, Adam Levy, Billy Kopp, Bryan Devonshire, Brandon Cantu, Debo34, Hollywood Dave, Liv Boeree, Matt Graham, Michael Binger, POKer H0, Scott Ian, Shawn Rice, Tiffany Michelle, Matt Vengrin and Lacey Jones.

A total of 475 players took their seats in the \$5,550 Main Event to fight for a piece of a prize pool that reached \$2,303,750. The results of the final table, which played out on Saturday, October 10th, are as follows:

1. Brandon Hall \$753,330
2. Robert Mizrachi \$414,680
3. Chase Steely \$218,860
4. Eric Baldwin \$126,710
5. Jose Santos \$ 92,150
6. Brock Parker \$ 66,810
7. Matt Ross \$ 41,470

In celebration of its 10th anniversary dealing cards online, UltimateBet also included a number of other land-based poker tournaments



in Aruba with noteworthy top prizes.

On October 9th, a 10-player final table for a Mercedes ML-350 played out in the lobby of the Radisson. The seats were awarded to players at UltimateBet through a series of qualifiers at the online poker site. Elliot Smith left the table with the keys to the Mercedes.

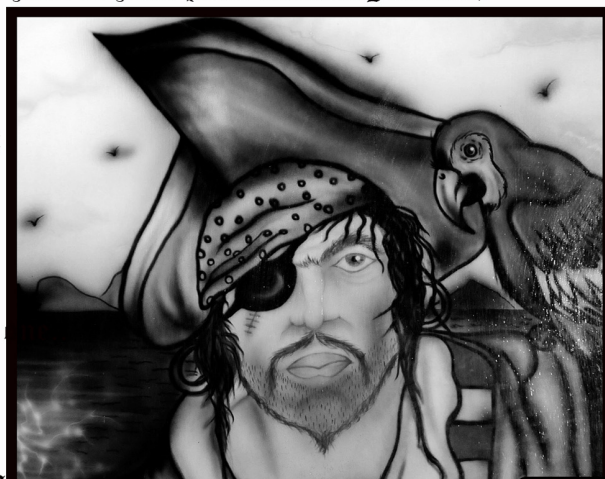
Also held in the tournament room of the Radisson were nightly \$500+40 poker tournaments, two separate \$2,000+100 No Limit Hold'em tournaments and a \$1,000+60 event, providing poker players with ample opportunity to profit from poker while in paradise. □

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Dutch Govt funds for USM, UNA

Ministers agreed to publish basic grammar of the Papiamentu language in Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, and for the Papiamentu-speaking community in the Netherlands.



THE HAGUE--The Dutch Government has agreed to invest 690,000 euros in higher education in the Netherlands Antilles, via University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA) and University of St. Martin (USM).

The money will be used to make higher education on the islands "more attractive" and to prevent brain drain.

Dutch Minister of Education Ronald Plasterk and his Antillean colleague Omayra Leeflang signed a protocol in The Hague on Monday, in which it was agreed that USM would receive 138,000 euros and UNA 552,000 euros for the academic year 2009-

2010.

The amount for USM is earmarked for activities in relation to the accreditation of the teachers' programme, and to stimulate appreciation of studying at the university. The money serves to give content to the cooperation agreement that USM and UNA signed in May 2006.

According to the protocol, the funds are meant as allowances for UNA and USM students, to encourage active participation in social activities, international internships, or to be applied as gestures of appreciation for achieving good study results. The allowances are meant for

full-time students who started their studies at USM or UNA in the academic year 2009-2010 or later.

The first results of the initiative will be evaluated next year. Based on this evaluation, parties will decide whether to continue making funds available for USM and UNA.

By making higher education more attractive on the islands, Leeflang hopes to reduce brain drain. Some 600 students from the islands per year go to the Netherlands to study. The majority don't return to the islands. This has a negative impact on middle management in the islands. Young talent has become even more important to build Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten.

Investing in higher education in Curaçao and St. Maarten is also to the benefit of the Netherlands, because of the new constitutional relations. When Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius become part of the Netherlands as public entities next year, students will continue to study at UNA and USM.

Ministers Plasterk and Leeflang also agreed to publish basic grammar of the Papiamentu language in Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, and for the Papiamentu-speaking community in the Netherlands. This should be the first initiative for a Papiamentu language union in the Kingdom. □



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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Information Distortion

In human interaction, it is important to understand that there is a fundamental distortion in the transfer of all information, especially between people. We each understand ourselves, and we assume that our personal understanding is identical for everyone. We assume that information is the same, but there is no such thing as perfect information. Distortion

occurs because we each have a personal filter for interpretation, which is built from our experiences, emotions and reactions. We each interpret information in our own way.

All of our experiences and the information we gather is filtered through our personal individuality, which is one of the reasons that human interaction is interesting

and dynamic.

However, when we expect others to understand something the same way we understand it, confusion and conflict usually result.

Our personal filters are made up of our associations and feelings. These personal emotions distort information so that we can recognize it within our own framework of awareness. Since everyone has a different framework of awareness, we all recognize information differently.

Given the 'same' information, everyone will take a different path to reach a goal, and everyone will interpret the goal differently. Effective communication focuses on the fine details of the end result. Make the details of the goal as clear as possible, and provide general guidelines about the process of getting there. Stress the order in which the steps must be done and highlight the important points in the process, then remember that the goal won't be reached the exact way that you would do it. Remember that

the goal is the important part, so if the end result meets the expectations you communicated, the path to the goal is less important. With that said, experience learns to follow an efficient path, and it can be frustrating to watch others struggle needlessly.

When we understand that information is distorted for each individual person, we can have compassion for others because we get a better understanding of their motivations. When a woman wants to go to the symphony with her husband, she interprets it as romantic time together. When the husband thinks of a symphony, he looks forward to the quiet time to get some sleep. Understand the daily demands on a person, and you will be able to see the differences in the way they interpret information.

Our own information filters are ingrained and unconscious to us, and it is very hard to become aware of them. It is not important to understand someone else's filter, but it helps to know

that we have them, and that they distort information.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger
Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units distributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

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with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners. Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

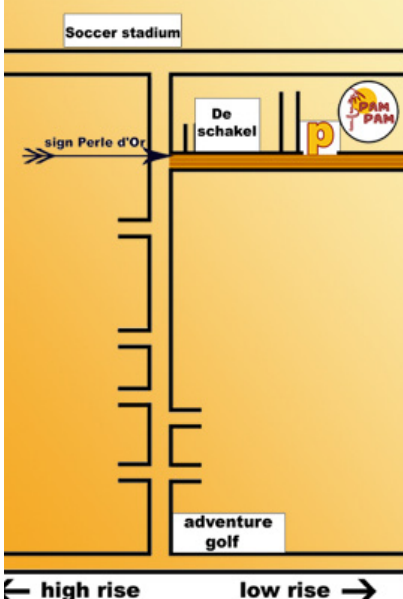
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Pam Pam has the biggest menu with a choice from 26 main-courses, **all priced between \$ 13 / \$ 23** no service charge

Pam Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently at Aruba is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "gourmet meal. **Priced \$ 20 and \$ 27**

A grill and a collection of fresh ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat.

It is suggested that reservation for this singular dining experience be made before 3 p.m

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ORANJESTAD - Thirsty Aruba Music Festival fans headed to Senor Frog's after the fantastic events on both Friday and Saturday night. Senor Frog's stretches the limits of recreation and refreshment

with this elongated invention, which has spread in popularity throughout the world. In 1989, the restaurant's Cancun location introduced the take-home "Yard Glass" of beer. Sure, nearly 16 inches



At Senor Frog's Aruba

Aruba Music Festival goers go for The Longest "Yard"



in 1969. Twenty years later, the concept was brought to Cancun, the chain's most successful locale, and the site attributed with, among other things, the introduction of Reggae music and karaoke to Mexico. There are currently 14 Senor Frog's throughout Mexico and the Western Caribbean. This summer, Senor Frog's plans to open its first U.S. locations in Myrtle Beach's "Broadway at the Beach," followed by openings in Honolulu and Las Vegas. ~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Live Music every Saturday at Casa Tua Barcelona from 7:30 -9:30



For entertainment, Casa Tua Barcelona offers rhythms of salsa & bolero & Cha Cha Cha performed by a live band every Saturday Nights! El Latin Son will perform tonight!!

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucia. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



ORANJESTAD - The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating. The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad for \$19.95.



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

(40 centimeters) in height, the item isn't exactly considered "small," not comparatively speaking at least. But David Krouham, who spearheaded the Cancun restaurant's opening (on a budget of only \$100,000) and soon after invented and added the "Yard Glass" to the menu, believed the novelty would fit well with the establishment's repertoire of nonstop activities, nightly musical entertainment and finger-friendly food. Sure enough, he was right. Sixteen

years later, the "Yard Glass" remains one of the chain's most popular items, Senor Frog's Cancun has garnered a reputation as a world-class fun spot, and David Krouham has become the CEO of Grupo Anderson's, the parent company of Senor Frog's. If that weren't enough, the glass itself has spawned so many imitators that versions of it can be seen at festivals and theme restaurants everywhere around the world. Senor Frog's, owned and operated by Grupo Anderson's, Mexico's

largest and most recognized restaurant company, opened its first restaurant in Mazatlan

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each averaging 2400 square feet—twice as spacious as the typical timeshare unit. Anabui offers a daily housekeeping service; timeshares, weekly housekeeping services. While timeshare owners have the right to use only one week of stay each year, Anabui is a private residence club, meaning that each owner has a deeded fractional interest in a club residence and is entitled to no fewer than 28 nights occupancy each year, guaranteed—plus unlimited use on a space-available basis. In essence, Anabui club residences serve as second homes to their owners and can

also provide rental income. The differences don't end there. Anabui owners can opt for reciprocal vacations worldwide via The Registry Collection, at equally high

quality residences whereas timeshare owners are limited to exchanges to traditional Timeshares via Interval International or RCI.

For more information visit www.Anabui.com or the Sales Gallery at Tierra del Sol. Purchase decision are made at your own convenience, there is neither a tour premium nor a 90 minute tour requirement, it is just like shopping for a second home!

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membership at Tierra del Sol's 18-hole championship golf course while in residence; discounts on Body & Soul Spa merchandise and treatments; access to Tierra del Sol's fitness center, pool, and tennis courts; and the convenience of Tierra del Sol's panoramic restaurant, Ventanas del Mar. Bordered by natural preserves on its northern and eastern sides and by fabulous Arashi Beach on its western side, Tierra del Sol provides the ideal backdrop for Anabui Residence Club, where you could own more than just time—you can own a second home.

Tierra del Sol Resort Spa & Country Club, Aruba, Tel.: (297) 586 7800, Real Estate Office, Tel: (297) 586 1010



Paris celebrates 6th birthday on Aruba



PALM BEACH – Little Miss Paris celebrates her 6th birthday today on October 14, 2009. Already an accomplished singer and speaks 4 languages; fluent in English, Dutch, Spanish, Papiamentu, and dabbling in Chinese on a daily basis. Paris is not only proud to leave the toddler world but welcomes the big world to her imagination. Her favorite song is "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", second to songs from

the Little Mermaid, where she steps up to the plate with Connie Talbot.

Her brother Jordan and sisters Amanda and Marta together with Mom and all of her family and friends wish Paris the happiest day ever and year to come. A special appreciation to Paris for being a "Bon Dia Baby" and putting up with the lifestyle of a journalist mommy.

The clock is ticking

The Dutch Government's decision to postpone the payment of Bonaire's outstanding bills as part of the debt relief accompanying the process of constitutional change in the Netherlands Antilles is being likened by some to blackmail. After all, it is because the new ADB/Nicolaas Executive Council wants to deviate from the agreements made with the former UPB Executive Council that The Hague now wants to "close the money faucet."

The new Island Government coalition led by Jopie Abraham of "Aliansa Demokratiko Boneriano" (ADB) not only wants another referendum on what has been negotiated so far, which could delay the entire process, but has expressed a preference for a "free association" status rather than that of overseas public entity of the Netherlands as agreed on. Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten considers the latter effectively opting for independence, which, of course, changes the entire ballgame.

When judging whether withholding payment of Bonaire's debt to the Antillean pension fund APNA is an appropriate reaction, one has to take into account that it's not just about Bonaire.

It involves the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles as a whole with Curaçao and St. Maarten to become autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom, while the so-called "smaller islands" with structural deficits Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba would go under The Hague's wing as the BES islands.

The latter is crucial, because it means that any change in plans concerning Bonaire could have an impact on those pertaining to particularly Statia and Saba. Dutch officials have said each of the future overseas public entities must be seen separately, but the reality is that they have been grouped together and are very much being dealt with in that manner as well.

So while the current "power play" by the Dutch when it comes to Bonaire raises questions, the other islands need to keep in mind what is at stake. It will be difficult enough as it is to prepare for the new Kingdom relations scheduled to go into effect less than a year from now on 10-10-10, with an election for the last Antillean Parliament in January and another one for the new Parliaments of the countries Curaçao and St. Maarten in June.

It is important to be ready to take over as many tasks as possible by then from the to-be-eliminated Central Government, because those the future country in question cannot yet carry, according to the recent agreements made, will be dealt with through a General Governance Measure at the Kingdom level for a maximum two-year period, with one extension for another two years possible.

What should not be overlooked is that there are elections for the Dutch Parliament in 2011 and, considering recent polls, a new government that is less sympathetic towards the Antilles is not unlikely. Having the fewest possible number of tasks fall under the Kingdom Government at that time would seem desirable, to say the least. □

Hirsch Ballin in Curaçao to discuss Kingdom Law Movement of People

WILLEMSTAD--Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage of the Netherlands Antilles and visiting Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin discussed the proposal for a Kingdom Law on Movement of People in Willemstad Monday, it was stated in a joint press release. The release further stated that Minister Hirsch Ballin has explained this proposal. He wanted to eliminate existing blockades for persons of European Dutch, Antillean and Aruban nationality to make it possible to travel freely within the Kingdom.

Prime Minister De Jongh-Elhage has explained her concerns concerning an entry ban in the case of serious infringements of the public order.

It was agreed that Minister Hirsch Ballin will enter into consultations with the governments concerned (Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten) as soon as possible, and that improvements of the proposed Kingdom Law where it concerns these parts will be looked at.

The discussion took place in a good atmosphere, the release said.

Minister Hirsch Ball was also introduced to the new Justice Minister of the Netherlands Antilles,



Magali Jacoba. The two Ministers have agreed to collaborate in the fight against criminality, and in particular focus on individuals. Extra attention will be paid to youth criminality. The Ministers also discussed the progress in the providing of support for Bon Futuro prison □

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Maria urges movement on building code amendments



PHILIPSBURG-- Island Councilmember Maria Buncamper-Molanus said on Monday that although no clear picture has been provided by the NA/Heyliger government regarding its intention with

respect to the proposal amending the building code ordinance, government should act on suggestions put forward by the DP faction.

The amendment of the building ordinance, as suggested by law firm Lexwell N.V., would provide the Island Government with the authority to have owners of severely derelict buildings repair these buildings or demolish them and face fines of Naf 3,000 and two months' imprisonment.

"We heard from the NA/Heyliger Executive Council of their concern about the debris that a demolition of the dilapidated buildings at Mullet Bay would cause. It must be clear that the owners would be responsible for disposing of the debris," Buncamper-

Molanus said.

The Council lady says that there are suggestions that the Executive Council can look into. One such suggestion is that the metal could probably be taken to the scrap metal recycling plant next to the landfill. The concrete debris, on the other hand, can be crushed and reused as is currently done by several contractors on the island.

"In fact this crushed concrete is often used in the mixture of road foundation stabilizers. If that is not possible, the crushed concrete can be used to cover the landfill instead of using precious fill material that comes from excavation, which costs the government anywhere between US \$10 and US \$15 per m3," she said.

Buncamper-Molanus says that while the DP faction certainly shares the concern of the NA/Heyliger Executive Council on this debris issue, one can conclude that this was already taken into consideration in the 2009 budget.

"Our suggestion to the NA/Heyliger Executive Council is to use part of this budget to have the draft amendments to the building ordinance made since the legal affairs department is unable to deal with this matter at the moment," she said.

Councilmember Maria Buncamper-Molanus emphasized that the DP faction is cognizant of the fact that the legal affairs department is overwhelmed with issues directly related to the constitutional process, "but

obviously this was already taken into consideration when the 2009 budget was prepared and approved."

"We should as much as possible try to avoid introducing ad hoc policies. It is evident that the Democratic Party Executive Council recognized this and therefore established in the Social Economic Initiatives (SEI), the project 'St. Maarten Zoning'. The objective of this project is to establish spatial development regulations by means of zoning plans. These regulations will contribute toward sustainable economic development and provide a judicial, economic, infrastructural and social framework for further development of St. Maarten," Buncamper-Molanus said.

Chamber wants clarity on situation at GEBE

~ Threatens to take legal action ~



PHILIPSBURG--The St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce has threatened to take legal action against utilities company GEBE if it does not receive clarity on the situation at the company, which has come in for criticism for the recent spate of power outages and the spiralling light and water bills residents and businesses have been receiving.

Chamber President Glen Carty told The Daily Herald on Monday the Chamber has been receiving a barrage of complaints from businesses over the past few months about the constant power outages. He said this is adversely affecting businesses, especially those without generators. They lose money when the power goes off.

The power outages, he added, affect productivity and slow down business activity.

He said while the Chamber had taken a "wait and see" attitude in the past, The Daily Herald's

report Monday quoting Energy Affairs Commissioner Theo Heyliger as saying he is exhausted and tired with GEBE, shows the severity of the situation and the need for urgent clarity and action. (See report on GEBE's press release on page 1).

"If the Commissioner is exhausted, then what about the businesses?" Carty asked. "We need to know this week what the situation is and whether the situation will be stabilised and what's going on at GEBE. If the situation is not explained to Chamber and stabilised, we will have no other choice than to take legal action against GEBE for losing money. If no one has generators, everything would go flat and the entire economy would go down. The chamber took a wait and see attitude to see what will happen, but we're not seeing any light at the end of the tunnel."

Carty said it appears as though there is no "control" or "grip" of the situation at the water and electricity company. "I will be the last to deny that outages are not possible, but the frequency of outages and the fact that there is no clear cut explanation shows that there is a problem. No information is forthcoming and businesses have been complaining bitterly about it."

DP: ExCo has to act on GEBE, not throw up hands in despair

PHILIPSBURG--Democratic Party (DP) leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams said yesterday that government's latest response to the situation at GEBE was worrisome. She said the Executive Council should assume its responsibility and act on providing consumers with relief.

Reacting to Commissioner Theo Heyliger's statement that his hands were somewhat tied and he too struggled to obtain information from GEBE, Wescot-Williams said government should not simply "throw up its hands in despair. This is not the way to handle a government-owned company," she said.

She said her party would request a meeting of the Central Committee of the Island Council to discuss the situation at GEBE. She said the board and management of GEBE should be invited to this meeting "to provide answers to the people."

Should a meeting of the Central

Committee not be convened for whatever reason, Wescot-Williams said, then her faction will request a public meeting of the Island Council.

"The prices consumers are asked to pay for their utilities have our concern. Throwing up your arms in despair is not a plausible action for the people of St. Maarten who are not only asking about high prices, but have to endure constant outages," she said.

DP Island Councilman Roy Marlin added that during his tenure as Commissioner in charge of energy, the DP government had ensured that the people received relief even when the price of fuel was skyrocketing worldwide. "We did this so that our people would not feel the brunt of what was happening on a global scale," Marlin said.

Marlin said the onus fell on the Executive Council to "step up" and regulate the price of electricity, possibly through the price regulatory authority government had at its disposal.

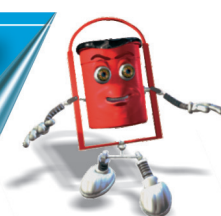


"I believe the same method that regulates gasoline, bread and other basic food items can be used for regulating electricity and not leave it up to the managing director of the company," Marlin said.

"The Executive Council simply has to act. It has nothing to do with Saba and Statia. It has to do with government offering relief to its people. The consumer cannot deal with rising electricity cost of 30 to 40 per cent monthly, especially low wage earners," Marlin added. □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...



THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

As a certified clinical nutritionist I know that the medical concept that one diet, one drug treatment, and one lifestyle are not relevant in the real world. We are all individually and metabolically different. However, some general rules can be made for those of us who share the same Sad Aruban/ American Diet (SAD). Those of us that live in the West share the same physiological stresses brought on by our food choices.

Because of our shared environmental stresses, there are dietary supplements that are fundamental to our well being. When I write about dietary supplements I differentiate between synthetic vitamins created in a laboratory verses those supplements produced from organic food. There is a real difference.

There is really no debate if organic food is better. A four-year, European-Union-funded study found that: organic fruit and vegetables contain up to 40 percent more antioxidants and organic produce had higher levels of beneficial minerals like iron and zinc. For those of us living in the industrialized Western countries the essential supplements, what I call basic/ basic include: Vitamin C, magnesium, zinc, and lecithin.

According to legend, our sister island of Curaçao, whose name is the same as the Portuguese word for "cure", was founded by Portuguese crew members from the ships of Christopher Columbus who were dying of scurvy and asked to be dropped off on this island. The Portuguese, who had originally intended to die on the island as an alternative to dying at sea and being fed to the sharks, ate some of the island's fruits and vegetables and miraculously recovered. Scurvy, the infamous disease

that afflicted many sailors during the Age of Exploration is a horrible way to die.

Scurvy is the most serious diseases affecting teenagers today is a deficiency disease that results from insufficient intake of vitamin C, which is required for good skin, bone, and other connective tissues production. The scientific name of vitamin C, ascorbic acid, is derived from the Latin name of scurvy, scorbutus. Scurvy leads to the formation of liver spots on the skin, spongy gums, and bleeding from all mucous membranes. The spots are most abundant on the thighs and legs, and a person with the ailment looks pale, feels depressed, and is partially immobilized. In advanced scurvy there are open, oozing wounds and loss of teeth.

Magnesium, a trace mineral, can be found in dark green, leafy vegetables. Researchers have found that not getting the optimal daily intake of magnesium can be associated with: Allergies, Asthma, Attention deficit disorder (ADD), Anxiety, Heart disease, and Muscle cramps. A majority of people in modern societies do not consume the recommended daily amount of 400 mg magnesium; this deficit poses a major health risk. Magnesium helps build strong bones, make proteins, release energy that is stored in muscles and regulate body temperature. In addition, researchers found that helping maintain memory function in middle age and beyond may be another of magnesium's roles.

There's a good chance that you aren't getting enough zinc in your diet. And there's an even greater chance that you don't know what that means in terms of jeopardizing your

Basic-Basic

health! Many suffering from zinc deficiency experience such mood disorders as aggression, depression, PMS, and even ADHD. Tests have shown that children deficient in zinc can become hyperactive, creating problems in getting enough rest and sleep.

Other symptoms of zinc deficiency include poor growth, weight loss, impaired taste or smell; poor wound healing, skin abnormalities, such as acne, dermatitis and psoriasis, hair loss, lack of menstrual period, night blindness, delayed sexual maturation, and white spots on the fingernails.

Lecithin is an excellent source of an essential fatty acid called linoleic acid. It also is a good source of choline. Lecithin is known from many studies to decrease the LDL (bad) cholesterol and increase the HDL (good) cholesterol. Lecithin also forms part of the myelin sheath, which covers nerve tissue. Maintaining the integrity of the myelin sheath is essential for healthy nerve transmission. Lecithin helps prevent fatty infiltration of the liver, aids in the absorption and transportation of the fat-soluble Vitamins A, D, E, and K. It helps prevent gallstones and in some cases, it can aid short-term memory.

Pregnant mothers that take lecithin supplementation have been shown to give birth to babies with brain cells bigger and faster in learning new things. The implications for humans are profound because the collective data on choline suggests that simply increasing the diets of pregnant women with lecithin could affect their children's lifelong learning

and memory. In theory, choline could boost cognitive function, diminish age-related memory decline, and reduce the brain's vulnerability toxic insults.

Although it would be great if we could simply eat a healthy diet to obtain all the nutrients needed by the body, as a certified clinical nutritionist, I know it is becoming more difficult to get everything needed from food alone. Harvesting food green, long storage periods, processing and modern farming techniques which includes increased pesticides and other additives as well as genetically engineered (GE) and genetically modified (GM) foods all contribute to nutrition loss. Add to this list that some cooking methods such as frying can cause a loss of nutrients and our Standard Aruban/American Diet (SAD) and you can begin to understand why I recommend nutritional supplementation.

I only recommend quality nutritional products that have been verified by independent scientific evidence supporting their effectiveness. Each product must perform to high standards of excellence and must deliver the correct amount of key ingredients, based on clinical research, every time. I make supplement recommendations based upon the quality of the product itself. There is a maze of good treatments and products available. A Certified Clinical Nutritionist is trained to help you choose the ones that will enhance your overall health. I am always in search of the most superior products.

Get the Point! What you don't know can hurt you. You need to learn how to be



By: Dr Carlos Viana

your own best doctor. The basic supplements listed above are the first step to a healthier you. Including a personal healthy eating and lifestyle plan with the help of a professional is the next step. Come in for an individual consultation and blood test to "fine tune" your health needs.

LEARN MORE: Dr. Viana will present his seminar "Feel the Difference Naturally" at YMCA San Nicolaas Wed. Oct. 21 at 7pm. Language English.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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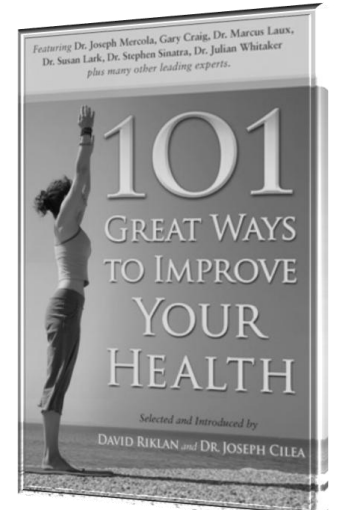
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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Near half of swine flu patients otherwise healthy



Members of Canada's Winter Olympic team should be vaccinated against swine flu as a priority, their team doctor said on Tuesday.

By MIKE STOBBE,
AP Medical Writer

(Vancouver2010)

ATLANTA—The largest U.S. analysis of hospitalized adult swine flu patients has found almost half were healthy people who did not have asthma or any other chronic illnesses before they got sick.

Health officials released the surprising results at a news conference on Tuesday, noting that 46 percent of 1,400 hospitalized adults did not have a chronic underlying condition.

They have said before that the majority of swine flu patients who develop severe illness have some sort of pre-existing condition, but the new data suggest the majority may be slimmer than was previously thought.

A study of 272 hospitalized swine flu patients, released by the New England Journal of Medicine earlier this month, concluded that 83 percent of adults and 60 percent of children had underlying conditions.

However, health officials cautioned that the new analysis is preliminary and did not count obesity as an underlying condition. Earlier research has suggested obesity could be a separate risk factor for severe swine flu illness. Further analysis that counts obesity could change the results, said a spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC looked at 1,400 adults and more than 500 children with swine flu who were hospitalized in 10 states at medical centers participating in a special disease surveillance network. The hospitalizations occurred from April through the end of August.

Looking at a larger number of hospitalizations was important because "we wanted to make sure that we weren't missing some important underlying conditions that we hadn't talked about earlier," said

Dr. Anne Schuchat, who heads the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases.

Of the adult cases, about 26 percent had asthma, 8 percent had some other chronic lung disease, 10 percent had diabetes, nearly 8 percent had weakened immune systems, and 6 percent were pregnant.

Not as much analysis has been completed on the children's cases, but health officials noted that 6 percent were kids with sickle-cell disease or another condition from the same family of blood diseases.

The new virus, first identified in April, is a global epidemic. The CDC doesn't have an exact count of all swine flu deaths and hospitalizations, but existing reports suggest more than 600 have died and more than 9,000 have been hospitalized. Health officials believe millions of Americans have caught the virus.

The virus is hitting young people harder. Experts believe older people are suffering from it less, perhaps because they have a bit of immunity from exposure over the years to somewhat similar viruses.

On Tuesday, Schuchat said that five additional pediatric swine-flu deaths have been reported since late last week, bringing to 81 the total count of U.S. children who have died with the infection.

States have ordered almost 6 million doses of swine flu vaccine in the vaccination campaign that started last week. About half the available doses are shots and half are the nasal spray version of the vaccine, Schuchat said. □

Day care next frontier in fighting kids' obesity

By LAURAN NEERGAARD,
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Grilled chicken replaced the hot dogs. Strawberries instead of cookies at snack time. No more fruit

juice — water or low-fat milk only. This is the new menu at a Delaware day care center, part of a fledgling movement to take the fight against obesity to pudgy preschoolers.

Day care is the next frontier: New Harvard research shows few states require that child-care providers take specific nutrition and physical activity steps considered key to keeping the under-5 crowd fit. And while years of work now have older kids starting to get healthier food in schools, more and more kindergarteners show up their first day already overweight or obese.

"We've got to start really early. Elementary school is too late," Dr. Lynn Silver of the New York City Health Department — a leader in anti-obesity standards for day care — told a recent meeting that brought child-care specialists together with federal and state health authorities to start learning how. This isn't about putting youngsters on a diet. It's about teaching them early, before bad habits form, how being active and eating healthy can



In this photograph taken Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, Jean Carlos Rubell, 3, helps himself to grapes during preschool lunch at the Latin American Community Center in Wilmington, Del.

(AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

be the norm — and that junk food, including the chicken nuggets-type fare that we call "kid food" — should be a rare treat.

"This is a whole new way of eating for our kids," says Maria Matos, who heads the Latin American Community Center in Wilmington, Del., and has overhauled what she now knows wasn't an ideal

preschool menu even though it fully complied with day care regulations.

It took some adjustment. Matos started serving Latino dishes with brown rice instead of white. The mac-and-cheese got a wheat makeover, too. Many of her youngsters had never even seen honeydew and kiwi, and had to be coaxed to try it. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



FILE - In this April 27, 2006 file photo, Jeffrey Peek, Chairman and CEO of CIT Group Inc., talks during the dedication of the CIT global headquarters in New York. The business lender CIT Group said Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009, Peek plans to resign at the end of the year.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, file)

CIT Group says CEO Peek plans to resign

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — CIT Group Inc., struggling as it continues efforts to restructure its debt, said Tuesday chairman and CEO Jeffrey M. Peek will resign at the end of the year.

It is widely believed that the commercial lender, which has received \$2.3 billion in federal bailout money, may be forced to seek bankruptcy court protection, and analysts said Peek's departure could be a sign that the company does plan a Chapter 11 filing that would enable it to reorganize its operations and finances.

Sameer Gokhale, a senior analyst at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Inc. said that if CIT plans to reorganize, it would make sense to bring in a new CEO to run a new capitalized firm, he said. It provides a "fresh start for the company," Gokhale said.

CIT is one of the largest lenders to small and mid-sized companies, and its customers range from Dunkin' Donuts franchisees to department store operator Dillards Inc. The company has suffered billions of dollars in losses as its borrowing costs outstripped the income it generates from lending to customers. As CIT's customers have struggled amid the recession, they have fallen behind on repaying loans, putting the company in the same predicament as many other financial institutions.

Some experts have warned that a collapse of CIT would deal a blow to an economy struggling to recover. The retail sector would be hit especially hard because CIT serves as a short-term financier to about 2,000 vendors that supply merchandise to 300,000 stores, according to the National Retail Federation. Analysts have said 60 percent of the apparel industry depends on CIT for financing.

CIT had \$54.09 billion in outstanding long-term borrowings as of June 30, including \$13.85 billion due by June 30, 2010. The company is trying to reduce its near-term debt burden by \$5.7 billion. CIT's shares fell 15 cents, or 14.4 percent, to 89 cents in afternoon trading Tuesday. Peek, 62, who has been with CIT Group since 2003, said in a statement the debt restructuring CIT is currently attempting, its second in recent months, makes this "the appropriate time to focus on a transition of leadership." □

Mixed J&J earnings leave investors little to cheer

By SARA LEPRO
TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks zigzagged in a narrow range after a mixed earnings report from Johnson & Johnson put a damper on hopes that sales were rebounding at big U.S. companies.

The health care products maker, the first among a number of key companies to issue quarterly results this week, said Tuesday sales fell 5 percent in the third quarter. That was a steeper drop than analysts predicted.

News that Cisco Systems Inc. agreed to buy Starent Networks Corp. for \$2.9 billion lifted some tech shares but didn't have a large affect on the overall market.

Financial stocks fell after influential banking analyst Meredith Whitney lowered her rating on Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to "neutral" from "buy" after the stock posted steep gains since the company reported earnings for the second quarter. The company is expected to report results from the latest quarter on Thursday.

The focus remains on earnings. Investors want to see signs that businesses and consumers are picking up their spending and that companies have been able to drive higher profits through revenue growth, not just through cost cuts, which helped boost income in the second quarter.

"They're not telling us the hoped-for better-than-expected sales," said Linda Duessel, equity market strategist at Federated Investors. "We want sales growth now."

After the closing bell, investors will also get reports from tech giant Intel Corp. and railroad operator CSX Corp.

Investors around the globe



Trader Robert Fava, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

have sent stocks higher in recent days on hopes that third-quarter earnings reports, which arrive in greater numbers this week, will exceed expectations and validate hopes that the economy is on the mend.

In other trading, the dollar fell against other currencies, sending commodities higher. Bond prices rose, recovering some of the steep losses from last week.

In midafternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 12.62, or 0.1 percent, to 9,873.18.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.77, or 0.3 percent, to 1,073.42, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 0.51, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,139.65.

Three stocks fell for every two that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 585.6 million shares compared with 501 million shares traded at the same point Monday.

The Dow moved as high as 9,931 on Monday, just 69 points away from 10,000, a level not seen in a year. It was the third straight day of gains for the index. The S&P 500 index, which has risen over the past six days, also finished

at its highest level in a year.

The gains have been driven in large part by expectations for upbeat earnings reports, stoked by solid profits at companies like Alcoa Inc. and Royal Philips Electronics.

This week, investors will look to reports from major U.S. banks including JPMorgan Chase & Co., which reports on Wednesday. Goldman Sachs and Citigroup Inc. report results on Thursday, while Bank of America Corp. is scheduled to issue its report on Friday.

JPMorgan fell 68 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$45.40, while Goldman fell \$3.89, or 2.1 percent, to \$186.26. Citi rose 8 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$4.85.

Jerry Webman, chief economist at Oppenheimer Funds Inc., said companies are going to have to post better numbers for the market to hold its gains.

"The market only makes sense at these levels if earnings can grow at a decent pace," he said. "What we're hearing now is OK, but you don't get long-term earnings growth out of cost cutting."

Johnson & Johnson shares fell \$1.26, or 2 percent, to \$61.27 after its earnings report. □

Hearing in Anna Nicole Smith case under way



In this combination of Jan. 29, 2001 file photos, Anna Nicole Smith, left, points at E. Pierce Marshall, accusing him of illegally interfering in the relationship she had with her late husband J. Howard Marshall II, and Smith, right, holding a photograph of J. Howard Marshall II, during the trial over Marshall's fortune in Harris County Probate Court in Houston. The FBI investigated whether Anna Nicole Smith was part of a plot to kill her tycoon husband's son, whom she was battling for his late dad's fortune, but prosecutors ultimately decided there wasn't enough evidence to charge the Playboy Playmate who died in 2007 from a drug overdose, newly released files show.

(AP Photo/Carlos Antonio Rios, Pool, File)

By LINDA DEUTSCH,
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors began presenting testimony Tuesday to a judge in the preliminary hearing of a criminal case stemming from the drug-overdose death of celebrity model Anna Nicole Smith.

Smith's former lawyer-boyfriend Howard K. Stern and two doctors arrived early at court to hear what evidence prosecutors have of a conspiracy to illegally provide Smith with controlled substances.

Stern, Dr. Sandeep Kapoor and Dr. Khristina Eroshevich have pleaded not guilty.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Robert Perry will determine at the end of the hearing whether there is enough evidence to proceed to trial.

A California Department of Justice narcotics investigator was called as the first witness to testify about what was found in the Florida hotel room where Smith collapsed before her death on Feb. 8, 2007.

Danny Santiago, a supervisory special agent in narcotics enforcement, said there were 11 containers with 10 types of drugs including diazepam and clonazepam.

Some of the prescriptions were in Stern's name, although some used an alternate spelling, Stearn, and some had been prescribed by Eroshevich, Santiago said.

Smith's autopsy concluded she died of "acute combined drug intoxication" and the drugs involved were chloral hydrate combined with Benadryl, clonazepam, diazepam and lorazepam.

Stern's attorney, Steve Sadow, has said he has not decided whether to call defense witnesses at the hearing.

Eroshevich's attorney, Adam Braun, said he is unlikely to call witnesses of his own during the hearing, saving his client's defense for the trial. Kapoor's attorney, Ellyn Garafolo, has taken a similar position.

Prosecutors claim Stern aided and abetted the two doctors and allege that he obtained prescriptions for Smith under false names.

Search warrant affidavits suggest Stern put his name on prescriptions for opiates that were given to Smith, and claim 44 different medications were prescribed for Smith under a number of other names, including Stern's.



Jon and Kate Gosselin in court for divorce battle

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Estranged reality couple Jon and Kate Gosselin are back in court over their acrimonious split.

The stars of "Jon and Kate Plus 8" appeared briefly in court Tuesday in the Philadelphia suburb of Norristown. Details of the court appearance were not immediately available.

The couple have been locked in a divorce battle since announcing their separation during an episode in June. □



Michael Jackson earns American Music Awards nod

NEW YORK — Michael Jackson has a chance to win artist of the year posthumously at the American Music Awards.

Fans will select winners by online voting. The awards will be televised Nov. 22 from Los Angeles on ABC.

Jackson is up against Lady Gaga, Eminem, Kings of Leon and Taylor Swift for the show's top honor. Jackson died in Los Angeles on June 25, in the midst of rehearsals for a comeback tour.

Country star Swift tops all artists with six nominations. Jackson has five and Eminem has four. □



A preview of the Michael Jackson documentary "This Is It" is shown at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, September 13, 2009.

REUTERS/Gary Hershorn

"New" Michael Jackson single a "mistake"

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Michael Jackson didn't do it his way after all. Hours after the pop singer's first posthumous single "This Is It" was released amid great hype on Monday, it emerged that the tune had been recorded 18 years ago by an obscure Puerto Rican singer.

Moreover the co-author of that tune, "My Way" songwriter Paul Anka, threatened to sue Jackson's estate for proper credit and his share of royalties.

The administrators of the estate quickly acknowledged Anka's claims and granted him 50 percent of the copyright, a potentially massive payday for the 68-year-old Canadian crooner. And an equally massive loss for the estate.

"They realize it's a mistake, they realize it's my song, they realize it's my production of his vocal in my studio and I am getting 50 percent of the whole project, actually, which is fair," Anka said in a video posted on the TMZ gossip Web site.

The song dates back to 1983, when it was known as "I Never Heard" -- a co-write between Jackson and Anka -- and intended for inclusion on an Anka album. But the pair fell out, Jackson took the master tapes and Anka got them back.

The song was eventually released in 1991 after Anka placed it with an unknown Latin singer named Sa-Fire.

Both "I Never Heard" and "This Is It" share the same vocal and piano line, although the latter track boasts new overdubs from Jackson's brothers. But "This Is It" had been promoted as a new Jackson recording, one of a multitude of unreleased recordings likely to come out in the next few years.

It was released online around the world nearly four months after the singer died in Los Angeles of a prescription drug overdose at the age of 50.

Fans will be able to buy it when a two-disc album hits the shelves in two weeks to coincide with the October 28 worldwide release of the Jackson rehearsal-footage movie "This is It."

LYRICS FIT THE BILL

"The song was picked because the lyrics were appropriate because of the name Michael gave his tour," said a spokesman for Jackson's estate. "We are thrilled to present this song in Michael's voice for the first time, and that Michael's fans have responded in unprecedented numbers. The song was co-written by the legendary Paul Anka."

A spokeswoman for Sony Music declined to comment. One of the estate's two administrators, John McClain, worked with Jackson at the Sony Corp unit. The other executor is music attorney John Branca.

McClain, who is also a co-producer of the "This is It" album, had said in a statement earlier on Monday that the song "only defines, once again, what the world already knows -- that Michael is one of God's greatest gifts." □



Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., left, shakes hands with committee member Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, as Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is seen at center, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington, after a committee vote regarding the health care reform bill.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)
Read Page B4

AP Newsbreak:

Nobel jury defends Obama decision

By IAN MacDOUGALL
KARL RITTER,

Associated Press Writers

OSLO – Members of the Norwegian committee that gave Barack Obama the Nobel Peace Prize are strongly defending their choice against a storm of criticism that the award was premature and a potential liability for the U.S. president.

Continued on Next Page

FILE - In this Friday, Oct. 9, 2009 file photo, Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Thorbjørn Jagland, holds a picture of President Barack Obama, in Oslo, Norway, after the announcement of Obama as winner of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. Members of the Norwegian committee that gave Barack Obama the Nobel Peace Prize are strongly defending their choice against a storm of criticism that the award was premature and a potential liability for the U.S. president.

(AP Photo/Jon-Michael
Josefsen, Scanpix)



Report: Unsafe abortions kill 70,000 annually



A doctor examines a pregnant woman at a government run hospital in Katmandu, Nepal, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009. The number of abortions worldwide has fallen significantly in tandem with increased use of contraceptives, but unsafe abortion remains a persistent problem killing 70,000 women a year, a research institute reported Tuesday in a major global survey.

(AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe)

By DAVID CRARY,
AP National Writer

NEW YORK – Increased contraceptive use has led to fewer abortions worldwide, but deaths from unsafe abortion remain a severe problem, killing 70,000 women a year, a research institute reported Tuesday in a major global survey.

Continued on Page B3



Residents of Cabo San Lucas, drive through the water, as rain from Tropical Storm Patricia flows on the streets of the tourist town at the Southern tip of Baja California, Mexico. Tropical Storm Patricia advanced toward Mexico's Baja California Peninsula with landfall possible late Tuesday or early Wednesday, weather forecasters said.

(AFP/Paul J. Richards)

Tropical Storm Patricia approaches Mexico

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico – Officials closed schools and readied emergency shelters as Tropical Storm Patricia neared Mexico's Los Cabos resorts on Tuesday.

The storm's winds weakened to 50 mph (85 kph) on Tuesday afternoon, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. Further weakening was expected during the next 24 hours.

Continued on Page B7

NOBEL JURY

Continued from Page B1

Asked to comment on the uproar following Friday's announcement, four members of the five-seat panel told The Associated Press that they had expected the decision to generate both surprise and criticism.

Three of them rejected the notion that Obama hadn't accomplished anything to deserve the award, while the fourth declined to answer that question. A fifth member didn't answer calls seeking comment.

"We simply disagree that he has done nothing," committee chairman Thorbjørn Jagland told the AP on Tuesday. "He got the prize for what he has done."

Jagland singled out Obama's efforts to heal the divide between the West and the Muslim world and scale down a Bush-era proposal for an anti-missile shield in Europe.

"All these things have contributed to — I wouldn't say a safer world — but a world with less tension," Jagland said by phone from the French city of Strasbourg, where he was attending meetings in his other role as secretary-general of the Council of Europe.

He said most world leaders were positive about the award and that most of the criticism was coming from the media and from Obama's political rivals.

"I take note of it. My response is only the judgment of the committee, which was unanimous," he said, adding

that the award to Obama followed the guidelines set forth by Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite, who established the Nobel Prizes in his 1895 will.

"Alfred Nobel wrote that the prize should go to the person who has contributed most to the development of peace in the previous year," Jagland said. "Who has done more for that than Barack Obama?"

Aagot Valle, a left-wing Norwegian politician who joined the Nobel panel this year, also dismissed suggestions that the decision to award Obama was without merit.

"Don't you think that comments like that patronize Obama? Where do these people come from?" Valle said by phone from the western coastal city of Bergen. "Well, of course, all arguments have to be considered seriously. I'm not afraid of a debate on the peace prize decision. That's fine."

In Friday's announcement, the committee said giving Obama the peace prize could be seen as an early vote of confidence intended to build global support for the policies of his young administration.

The left-leaning committee whose members are appointed by the Norwegian Parliament lauded the change in global mood wrought by Obama's calls for peace and cooperation, and praised his pledges to reduce the world stock of nuclear arms, ease U.S. conflicts with Muslim

nations and strengthen the U.S. role in combating climate change.

However, the decision stunned even the most seasoned Nobel watchers. They hadn't expected Obama, who took office barely two weeks before the Feb. 1 nomination deadline, to be seriously considered until at least next year.

The award drew heated derision from Obama's political opponents in the Republican party, and was even questioned by some members of Obama's own Democratic party, who wondered what the president had done to merit the \$1.4 million honor.

Michael S. Steele, chairman of the Republican National Committee, said naming Obama showed "how meaningless a once honorable and respected award has become."

In a fundraising letter, Steele wrote that "the Democrats and their international leftist allies want America made subservient to the agenda of global redistribution and control. And truly patriotic Americans like you and our Republican Party are the only thing standing in their way." Columnist Thomas Friedman wrote in the New York Times that Obama "has not done anything yet on the scale that would normally merit such an award."

Even in Europe, where Obama is hugely popular, many editorials and pundits questioned what he had done to deserve the award.

"Scrap the Nobel Peace Prize,"



FILE - In this Oct. 9, 2009, file photo President Barack Obama speaks about being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. In the portfolio presidential phrases none is used more often than Obama's four-word favorite, 'Let me be clear', which he used to describe his surprise at receiving the prize. 'Let me be clear. I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments, but rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations,' he said.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

foreign affairs commentator Bronwen Maddox wrote in The Times of London. "It's an embarrassment and even an impediment to peace. President Obama, in letting the committee award it to him, has made himself look vain, a fool and dangerously lost in his own mystique."

Yet Obama was humble in acknowledging the prize.

"Let me be clear: I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments, but rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations," Obama said Friday in the White House Rose Garden. "To be honest, I do not feel that I deserve to be in the company of so many of the transformative figures who've been honored by this prize."

Nobel Committee member Inger-Marie Ytterhorn noted that the president didn't greet the news with joy.

"I looked at his face when he was on TV and confirmed that he would receive the prize and would come to Norway, and he didn't look particularly happy," she told AP.

Some of the most celebrated peace prize laureates include Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela. The award has occasionally honored more controversial figures, like the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat or former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Sometimes it raises the profile of peace workers or activists, such as Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala in 1992

or Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai in 2004.

"Whenever we award the peace prize, there is normally a big debate about it," said Ytterhorn, a nine-year veteran of the award committee.

Asked whether there was a risk that the prize could backfire on Obama by raising expectations even higher and give ammunition to his critics, Ytterhorn said "it might hamper him," because it could distract from domestic issues such as health care reform.

Jagland said he didn't think the Nobel Peace Prize would hurt Obama domestically but added the committee did not take U.S. politics into consideration when making their decision.

"I'm not so familiar with American politics, and I don't want to interfere with it, because this is a totally independent committee," he said. "We should not look at internal politics."

Kaci Kullman Five, a former Conservative Party parliamentarian and longtime Nobel committee member, said "we all expected that there would be a discussion" about awarding Obama. She declined further comment, deferring to the Nobel Peace Prize tradition of only having the committee chairman discuss prize selections publicly.

Valle, who left her seat in Parliament last week because of her Nobel panel appointment, said the criticism shouldn't overshadow important issues raised by the prize. □

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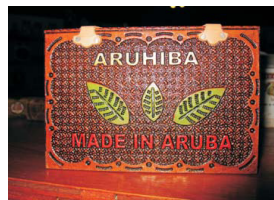
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.



Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba".



Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER

Fallen Marine's father wants change in Afghanistan



This March 9, 2007, family photo provided by retired Marine 1st Sgt. John Bernard, right, shows him with his wife Sharon, left and late son, Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua Bernard, center, at Joshua's graduation from Marine boot camp, Parris Island, S.C. Joshua Bernard was killed in August 2009 while on patrol in Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/John Bernard)

By DAVID SHARP,
Associated Press Writer

NEW PORTLAND, Maine — It was the last way John Bernard would have wanted his voice to gain prominence in the national debate over the war in Afghanistan. The retired Marine had been writing to lawmakers for weeks complaining of the new rules of engagement he believed put U.S. troops at unacceptable risk in the insurgency-wracked country. He got little response. Then Bernard's only son, 21-year-old Lance Cpl. Joshua Bernard—a Marine like his dad—was killed in an insurgent ambush in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province, the latest victim of a surge in U.S. combat deaths.

Three weeks later, Joshua became the face of that toll when The Associated Press published photos of the dying Marine against his father's wishes and John Bernard was thrust into a national debate about the role of the press in wartime. Suddenly, for all the worst reasons, John Bernard's voice was being heard.

The loss of his son and the furor over the photo have given new resonance to his view that changes must be made in how the war is fought before President Barack Obama sends any more troops to battle the Taliban and al-Qaida. "For better or for worse, I may be the face of this. That's fine,"

said Bernard, sitting on his porch as he drank coffee from a Marine Corps mug. "As soon as someone bigger can run with it, they can have the whole thing."

Bernard's criticism is aimed at new rules of engagement imposed by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the senior American commander in Afghanistan, five weeks before Joshua Bernard was killed. They limit the use of airstrikes and require troops to break off combat when civilians are present, even if it means letting the enemy escape. They also call for greater cooperation with the Afghan National Army.

Under those rules, John Bernard said, Marines and soldiers are being denied artillery and air support for fear of killing civilians, and the Taliban is using that to its tactical advantage. In a letter to his congressman and Maine's U.S. senators, Bernard condemned "the insanity of the current situation and the suicidal position this administration has placed these warriors in."

"We've abandoned them in this Catch-22 where we're supposed to defend the population, but we can't defend them because we can't engage the enemy that is supposed to be the problem," he said in an interview with the AP.

The military says the new rules, while riskier in the short

run, will ultimately mean fewer casualties.

Before Joshua died, his father lived quietly as a professional carpenter and church volunteer.

That changed on Aug. 14, when Joshua was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade while acting as point man for his squad in the town of Dahaneh. He died that night on the operating table.

On Sept. 4, the AP distributed a photo of the mortally wounded Marine being tended to by comrades. Many newspapers opted against using the photo, and the distribution launched a fierce public debate, especially after Defense Secretary Robert Gates publicly criticized the AP.

John Bernard still believes the AP's decision to release the photo—to show the horror of war and the sacrifice of those fighting it—was inexcusable, but he says the bigger issue is how the war is being conducted.

As he sees it, the U.S. was right to go to war in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but eight years later the focus has shifted to counterinsurgency instead of hunting down the enemy. Marines are trained to "kill people and break things," not to be police officers and nation-builders, he says.

The Taliban "are tenacious and you have to fight them with the same level of tenacity," Bernard said. "If you're going to try to go over there as a peacekeeper, you're going to get your butt handed to you, and that's what's going on right now."

Bernard also disagrees with U.S. troops working side by side with Afghan soldiers and police. The mission on which his son was killed was compromised by someone who tipped off the Taliban, he says, citing gunfire from all directions that targeted the Marines' helicopter when it landed. Bernard believes the Marines were led into a trap.

Bernard writes a blog sharing his views with others. □

UNSAFE ABORTION

Continued from Page B1

More than half the deaths, about 38,000, are in sub-Saharan Africa, which was singled out as the region with by far the lowest rates of contraceptive use and the highest rates of unintended pregnancies.

The report, three years in the making, was compiled by the New York-based Guttmacher Institute, which supports abortion rights and is a leading source of data on abortion-related trends. Researchers examined data from individual countries and multinational organizations.

The institute's president, Sharon Camp, said she was heartened by the overall trends since Guttmacher conducted a similar survey in 1999, yet expressed concern about the gap revealed in the new report.

"In almost all developed countries, abortion is safe and legal," she said. "But in much of the developing world, abortion remains highly restricted, and unsafe abortion is common and continues to damage women's health and threaten their survival."

The report calls for further easing of developing nations' abortion laws, a move criticized by Deirdre McQuade, a policy director with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"We need to be much more creative in assisting women with supportive services so they don't need to resort to the unnatural act of abortion," she said.

Guttmacher estimated previously that the number of abortions worldwide fell from 45.5 million in 1995 to 41.6 million in 2003—the latest year for which global figures were available.

A key reason for that drop, the new report said, was that the portion of married women using contraception increased from 54 percent in 1990 to 63 percent in 2003 as availability increased and social mores changed. Guttmacher's researchers said contraceptive use had increased in every major region, but still lagged badly in Africa—used by only 28 percent of married women there, compared with at least 68 percent in other major regions.

The report notes that abortions worldwide are declining even as more countries liberalize their abortion laws. Since 1997, it said, only three countries—Poland, Nicaragua and El Salvador—substantially increased restrictions on abortion, while laws were eased significantly in 19 countries and regions, including Cambodia, Nepal and Mexico City.

Despite this trend, the report said 40 percent of the world's women live in countries with highly restrictive abortion laws, virtually all of them in the developing world. This category includes 92 percent of the women in Africa and 97 percent in Latin America, it said.

The survey concluded that abortion occurs at roughly equal rates in countries where it is legal and where it is highly restricted. The key difference, according to the report, is the high rate of deaths and medical complications from unsafe clandestine abortions in the restrictive countries.

"Legal restrictions do not stop abortion from happening. They just make the procedure dangerous," Camp said. "Too many women are maimed or killed each year because they lack legal abortion access."

In one example, the report told of a Nigerian woman named Victoria who first tried to induce an abortion by drinking an herbal concoction, then consulted a traditional healer who inserted leaves in her vagina that caused internal injuries.

The report estimated that 19.7 million of the 41.6 million abortions in 2003 were unsafe—either self-induced, performed by unskilled practitioners or carried out in unhygienic surroundings. "Almost all of them occurred in less developed countries with restrictive abortion laws," said the report, which estimated that—beyond the tens of thousands of women killed annually from unsafe abortions—another 8 million women suffer complications because of them.

The report makes three major recommendations:

—Expand access to modern contraceptives and improve family planning services. □

Health care bill clears hurdle, gains GOP backer



Senate Finance Committee member Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, right, smiles as speaks with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus of Mont., second left, as her Republican colleagues Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, center, and the committee's ranking Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, look on during the committee's hearing regarding health care reform, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Snowe says she will vote for a Democratic health care bill, breaking with her party on President Barack Obama's top legislative priority.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

By DAVID ESPO,

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Historic legislation to expand U.S. health care and control costs won its first Republican supporter Tuesday and cleared a key Senate hurdle, a double-barreled triumph that propelled President Barack Obama's signature issue toward votes this fall in both houses of

Congress.

"When history calls, history calls," said Maine Republican Olympia Snowe, whose declaration of support ended weeks of suspense and provided the only drama of a 14-9 vote in the Senate Finance Committee. With her decision, the 62-year-old lawmaker bucked her own leadership on the most high-

profile issue of the year in Congress, and gave the drive to remake health care at least a hint of the bipartisanship that Obama seeks.

At the White House, Obama called the events "a critical milestone" toward remaking the nation's health care system. He praised Snowe as well as Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the committee, and declared, "We are going to get this done."

There were fresh challenges. Within minutes of the vote, labor unions and large business organizations both demanded changes in the bill, which was an attempt at a middle-of-the-road measure fashioned by the committee under Baucus' leadership.

Still, nearly nine months after the president pledged in his Inaugural Address to tackle health care, legislation to expand coverage to millions who lack it has now advanced further than President Bill Clinton's ill-fated effort more than a decade ago — or any other attempt in more than a generation.

The next move in the Senate is up to Majority Leader Harry Reid, whose office said the full Senate would begin debate on the issue the week of Oct. 26. Nominally, Reid must first blend the bill that cleared during the day with a version that passed earlier in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. But in reality, the majority leader — with the participation of the White House — has a virtual free hand in fashioning a measure to wind up gaining the 60 votes needed to overcome a threatened Republican filibuster.

"The bottom line here is we need a final bill, a merged bill, that gets 60 votes," Baucus said. "Our goal is to pass health care reform not just talk about it."

Reid's most politically sensitive decision revolves around proposals for the federal government to sell insurance in competition with private industry. The Senate bill approved in committee during the day omits the provision, while the one passed earlier includes it and many House

Democrats support it as well. In general, bills moving toward floor votes in both houses would require most Americans to purchase insurance, provide federal subsidies to help those of lower incomes afford coverage and give small businesses help in defraying the cost of coverage for their workers.

The measures would bar insurance companies from denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions, and for the first time limit their ability to charge higher premiums on the basis of age or family size. Expanded coverage would be paid for by cutting hundreds of billions of dollars from future Medicare payments to health care providers. Each house also envisions higher taxes — an income tax surcharge on million-dollar wage-earners in the case of the House, and a new excise levy on insurance companies selling high-cost policies in the case of the Senate Finance Committee bill.

Apart from Snowe, Republicans on the committee cited higher taxes, a greater federal role in the insurance industry and other concerns as they lined up to oppose the bill.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said the legislation would place the nation on a "slippery slope to more and more government control of health care."

Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, elicited testimony earlier from the head of the Congressional Budget Committee that a substantial portion of the bill's tax increases would fall on groups Obama has vowed would be protected: individuals making \$200,000 or less and couples below \$250,000.

Snowe, too, said there were problems with the bill, but on balance, the risks of doing nothing were too great.

"We should also contemplate the decades of inaction that have brought us to this crossroads," she said. "The status quo approach has produced one glaring common denominator, that is that we have a problem that is growing

worse, not better."

The vote made the Finance Committee the last of five in Congress to complete its work on health care.

It also marked a personal triumph for Baucus, who weathered criticism from fellow Democrats after his attempt at bipartisanship cratered earlier this fall after months of exhaustive effort. In the end, disgruntled liberals on the panel, including Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia and Ron Wyden of Oregon, went along in hopes the bill eventually would be reshaped more to their liking.

Across the Capitol, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her lieutenants have been at work for weeks trying to blend legislation approved by three House committees. The eventual result is certain to include a government option, but the details of the plan have split the rank-and-file and leaders have spent days struggling with the issue.

One group favors allowing the government to negotiate with doctors, hospitals and other health care providers for fees to be paid to treat patients who have federal insurance policies, an approach that involves higher costs for the government.

The other, lower-cost approach envisions a fixed payment schedule linked to Medicare. Officials say that alternative was quietly sweetened in recent days for the benefit of hospitals, medical device makers and others to put them on an even plane with doctors.

Apart from the details of the emerging bills, there were signs that the political struggle was intensifying.

Several officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said business groups were discussing plans to step up their opposition to legislation. The health insurance industry made clear its own unhappiness on Monday when it released a study by the prominent auditing firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers, saying the Finance Committee bill would raise premiums significantly for millions who already have insurance. □

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Fraud fugitive busted after unwise friend request



In this undated photo provided by the Seattle U.S. Attorney's office, Maxi Sopo, who is accused of being part of a bank-fraud ring in Seattle, is shown. Sopo is currently in a Mexico City jail awaiting extradition to the U.S. He was arrested while living as a fugitive in Mexico after he added a former Department of Justice official to his friend list on the social networking website Facebook.com.

(AP Photo/Courtesy Seattle U.S. Attorney's office)

By GENE JOHNSON,
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Maxi Sopo was living the dream of a fugitive abroad, kicking back on the beaches of Cancun by day, partying in the clubs by night. Then he did two things that are never a good idea when you're on the run from authorities: He started posting Facebook updates about how much fun he was having — and added a former Justice Department

official to his list of friends.

That kind of recklessness landed the 26-year-old native of Cameroon in a Mexico City jail, where he is awaiting extradition to the United States on bank fraud charges. Federal prosecutors say he and an associate falsely obtained more than \$200,000 from Seattle-area banks and credit unions.

"He was making posts about how beautiful life is and how he was having a good time with his buddies," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Scoville, who helped find Sopo. "He was definitely not living the way we wanted him to be living, given the charges he was facing."

Even in the hold-nothing-back world of social networking, where police search Facebook photos for evidence of underage drinking and watch YouTube videos to identify riot suspects, it's rare that a fugitive helps authorities this much.

In status updates, Sopo said he was "loving it" and "living in paradise."

"LIFE IS VERY SIMPLE REALLY!!!!" he wrote on June 21. "BUT SOME OF US HUMANS MAKE A MESS OF IT...REMEMBER AM JUST HERE TO HAVE FUN PARTEEEEEEEEE."

Sopo, who came to the U.S. in about 2003, made a living selling roses in Seattle nightclubs until, according to prosecutors, he moved on to bank fraud. He apparently drove a rented car to Mexico in late February after learning that federal agents were investigating the fraud scheme.

Investigators initially could find no trace of him on social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace, and they were unable to pin down his exact location in Mexico.

But several months later, Secret Service agent Seth Reeg checked Facebook again — and up popped Maxi Sopo. His photo showed him wearing a black jacket decorated with a white lion as he stood in front of a party backdrop featuring logos of BMW and Courvoisier cognac.

Although Sopo's profile was set to private, his list

of friends was not, and Scoville started combing through it. He was surprised to see that one friend listed an affiliation with the Justice Department and sent him a message requesting a phone call.

"We figured this was a person we could probably trust to keep our inquiry discreet," Scoville said.

The former official told Scoville he had met Sopo in Cancun's nightclubs a few times, but did not really know him and had no idea he was a fugitive. The official learned where Sopo was living and passed that information back to Scoville, who provided it to Mexican authorities. They arrested Sopo last month. The fugitive had been living at a nice apartment complex, working at a hotel and partying at Cancun's beaches, pools and nightclubs, Scoville said.

Sopo does not yet have a lawyer, and it was not immediately clear how to contact him.

Prosecutors say he masterminded the bank fraud scheme with Edward Asatoorians, who was convicted by a federal jury in Seattle last week. Testimony at trial indicated the pair persuaded young co-conspirators to lie about their income to obtain loans for fabricated auto purchases, and then used the money to prop up Asatoorians' business and to take an expensive trip to Las Vegas.

Asatoorians is expected to face at least five years in prison when he's sentenced. If convicted, Sopo could face up to 30 years.

Citing privacy concerns, the former Justice Department official declined an interview request left with the U.S. attorney's office.

Scoville said it was someone who left the department when the Obama administration arrived, and who had been taking some time off and organizing student trips to Cancun.

Facebook was not Sopo's only computer activity during his time on the lam. An affidavit contains details from an instant-message conversation in March between Sopo and a low-level conspirator in the case. Sopo explained that he had fled to "the one safe place where i can actually think."



FILE - In this April 24, 2009 file photo, Lorrie Mae Thomas, the adoptive mother of a 9-year-old quadriplegic girl whose body was found in a Michigan storage unit, listens during a court hearing in Flint, Mich. Thomas has been ordered to stand trial on charges including second-degree murder in the death of her adopted quadriplegic daughter. Judge Tracy Collier-Nix of 68th District Court made her ruling on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009. Forty-year-old Lorrie Thomas of Flint will stand trial on six charges.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, File)

By DAVID RUNK,
Associated Press Writer
FLINT, Mich. — A woman accused of starving her adopted quadriplegic daughter

and stashing the 9-year-old's body in a storage unit must stand trial on charges including murder, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Woman to be tried over girl found dead in storage

Lorrie Thomas, 40, of Flint, is scheduled to be arraigned Monday in circuit court on six charges including second-degree murder and welfare fraud after Judge Tracy Collier-Nix of 68th District Court ruled there was enough evidence to send her to trial.

Authorities believe Shylae Thomas was dead for six weeks when her body was discovered inside a 33-gallon container in a storage unit near Flint on April 22. The doctor who performed an autopsy on the 33-pound girl said the cause of death was a combination of neglect, malnourishment and dehydration.

"You don't even really need

an autopsy or an expert to tell you that this 9-year-girl at 33 pounds was starved to death," Assistant Prosecutor Marcie Mabry said after the hearing. The judge's ruling came at the end of a three-day preliminary hearing that began June 3 and continued Oct. 1. On Tuesday, Collier-Nix allowed Thomas' statement to police to be used despite objections from her lawyer that she did not fully waive her right against self-incrimination.

Prosecutors also played a recording of a phone conversation with Thomas, who was Shylae's aunt, from jail just days after her arrest in which she uses an expletive

to describe police and said she had planned to retrieve Shylae's body from the storage unit and bury it.

"I did not murder her," Thomas said in the April 25 call.

After the hearing, defense lawyer Mark Clement said Thomas found Shylae dead at home and panicked — fearing that her own children would be taken from her if she reported the death.

He said Thomas denies that she starved the girl and says she was feeding her.

Thomas adopted Shylae in 2003. The girl was fed through a tube in her stomach, the result of nearly suffocating in a crib as a baby. □

Clinton fails to win Russia pledge on Iran sanctions



Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev (L) shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as they meet at the presidential residence in Barvikha outside Moscow, October 13, 2009. *REUTERS/Natalia Kolesnikova/Pool*

By Jeff Mason

Michael Stott

MOSCOW (Reuters) – U.S. Secretary of State Hillary

Clinton failed to win specific pledges from Moscow on tougher sanctions against Iran during a visit to Russia on

Tuesday but hailed progress in other areas such as arms control.

A senior U.S. official had said before the talks that Clinton wanted to know “what specific forms of pressure Russia would be prepared to join us and our other allies in” if Iran did not keep promises to the international community not to pursue nuclear weapons. But Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov restated at a news conference with Clinton Russia's position that any talk of sanctions against Iran at this stage was counter-productive. “All forces should be aimed at supporting talks,” he said.

A U.S. official later told reporters of the Russian side: “They said they weren't ready in this context to talk specifically about what steps they would be willing to take.”

The Russian side preferred to discuss any possible moves against Iran in the context of the United Nations, the official added, speaking on condition he was not identified.

Clinton praised “very comprehensive and

productive” discussions with Lavrov, saying they were further evidence of the “reset” in formerly rocky U.S.-Russia relations.

“I feel very good about the so-called reset,” she said.

Clinton insisted at the news conference she had not sought specific commitments from Moscow on Iran.

“We did not ask for anything today,” she said. “We reviewed the situation and where it stood, which I think was the appropriate timing for what this process entails.”

Clinton, on her first visit to Russia since taking her post, quoted Russian President Dmitry Medvedev as saying sanctions against Iran might be inevitable.

A U.S. official later told reporters Medvedev had told her he expected Iran to implement its promises on its nuclear program and if it did not “there should be sanctions.”

“That was a clear statement of the Russian position that we found reassuring,” the senior State Department official said.

Medvedev has previously made it clear Moscow is ready to back further sanctions against the Islamic Republic unless it changes course on its nuclear program, despite Russia's general reluctance to support such punitive measures.

Lavrov said “considerable progress” had been made by U.S. and Russian negotiators toward a new bilateral treaty cutting their stocks of strategic nuclear weapons.

They are working to a deadline of December for concluding a treaty to replace the Cold War-era START pact.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Clinton did not address sensitive issues such as human rights and democracy at the news conference but met rights activists and opposition journalists privately at the U.S. ambassador's residence. Clinton told them, in a reference to killings of Russian journalists and rights activists:


“A society cannot be truly open when those who stand up and speak out are murdered. And people cannot trust in the rule of law when killers act with impunity.”

At a Boeing design center later she said the United States linked human rights with economic growth. She also said there was “reason to hope” Boeing would get a contract to build aircraft for Russia's new state-run airline.

Clinton met Medvedev at his Barvikha residence outside Moscow, where the president praised U.S.-Russian efforts to broker a peace deal between Turkey and Armenia as “a good example of our cooperation.”

But Clinton did not see the man most diplomats, analysts and ordinary Russians consider the true ruler of Russia -- Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Putin is on a visit to China.

President Barack Obama's decision to scrap plans for an anti-missile system located in eastern Europe has helped improve ties with Moscow after stormy relations under George W. Bush. □



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R	FINAL DESTINATION 4	daily: 8:15 matinee:		10:15 late show: 12:15
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Venezuela folk religion seen in secretive rituals

By ARIANA CUBILLOS,
Associated Press Writer

SORTE, Venezuela — Thousands of Venezuelans congregated for candlelit rituals on a remote mountainside where adherents make an annual pilgrimage to pay homage to an indigenous goddess known as Maria Lionza.

Many smoked cigars in purification rituals, while others closed their eyes lying face-up surrounded by candles and elaborate designs drawn on the ground with white powder. Some calling themselves the “Vikings” pricked their tongues with razor blades, drawing blood that ran down their chins and chests. They said they could not reveal the esoteric secrets that govern their traditions.

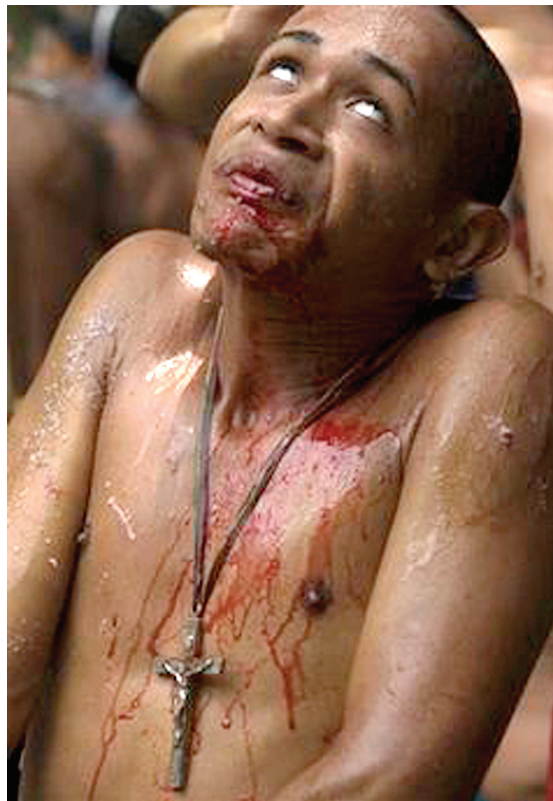
The rituals, which began late last week and lasted through Monday, are held every year in the name of the indigenous goddess Maria Lionza, who according to legend came from the mountain at Sorte, near the northwestern town of Chivacoa.

Some repeated the word “strength” while dancing atop flaming embers in a ceremony honoring the goddess early Monday at the start of the annual Oct. 12 rituals. Many camped in tents while dedicating several days to the spiritual ceremonies.

The traditions centered on Maria Lionza are hundreds of years old and draw on elements of the Afro-Caribbean religion Santeria and indigenous rituals, as well as Catholicism. Believers often ask for spiritual healing or protection from witchcraft, or thank the goddess for curing an illness.

Venezuela is predominantly Roman Catholic. The church disapproves of the folk religion but has long since abandoned its attempts to suppress it.

A statue on a Caracas highway divider honors Maria Lionza, depicting her naked and sitting



A follower of Maria Lionza’s cult looks up while in a trance during an annual gathering at Sorte Mountain, in Venezuela

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

astride a wild tapir.

Followers of the sect regularly leave offerings of flowers, liquor, coins or fruit at shrines honoring the goddess or other folk saints. □



A tourist watching powerful waves in Cabo San Lucas, Baja California, Mexico, in 2008. Tropical Storm Patricia advanced toward Mexico’s Baja California Peninsula with landfall possible late Tuesday or early Wednesday, weather forecasters said.

(AFP/File/Luis Acosta)

MEXICO

Continued from Page B1

The storm was located about 85 miles (135 kilometers) south-southeast of the tourist-heavy tip of the Baja peninsula and it was moving toward the north at near 7 mph (11 kph).

In Cabo San Lucas, tourists awoke to cloudy skies and intermittent rain Tuesday as hotel workers began putting away beach furniture and shutting down all open-air activities.

“The beach is empty and there is little activity at our pool area because tourists are staying in their rooms,” said Casa Dorada Hotel general manager Victor Gomez. “Unfortunately for the tourist, the entertainment options have been limited but we hope to be back to normal by tomorrow or Thursday.”

Cabo San Lucas Civil Protection Director Franciso Cota said authorities are ready to evacuate people living in areas at risk of flooding.

Baja California Sur’s state government announced that all schools at all levels were closed on Tuesday and it said officials were preparing 159 shelters in case of evacuations.

Mexico’s government declared a tropical storm warning for the southern portion of the desert peninsula, including Cabo San Lucas.

Forecasters said it could dump 1 to 3 inches (25 to 75 millimeters) of rain on the region. □

Iraqi police: 8 killed in blast north of Baghdad



An Iraqi police officer stands guard as a damaged car is towed away following a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad's Karrada neighborhood, Iraq, Monday, Oct 12, 2009. The roadside bomb targeted a government convoy, injured four people, police and hospital officials said.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

By SAMEER N. YACCOUB,
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber killed the leader of a U.S.-backed Sunni paramilitary group and seven others north of Baghdad Tuesday, the third attack in as many days in a heavily populated Sunni area, a police official said.

The bombing hit a market in the town of Buhriz, a former Saddam Hussein stronghold that was also the scene of an attack on Monday that killed the mayor.

It raised concerns that escalating violence toward the Sunni minority could destabilize Iraq as it prepares for national elections early next year.

Violence dropped off dramatically in Iraq after local Sunni tribes — known as Awakening Councils —

aligned themselves with U.S. forces. That alliance against al-Qaida was seen as a key turning point in the war.

The attack in Buhriz, 35 miles (60 kilometers) north of Baghdad, targeted the local leader of the Awakening Council, said Police Maj. Ghalib al-Kharki, spokesman for police in Diyala province. The bomber followed the leader, Leith Ahmed, into the market before detonating an explosives belt, al-Kharki said. Ahmed was killed instantly, he said. Seven others were killed and seven were wounded.

On Monday, an attack killed the mayor of Buhriz and wounded his two sons. The sons were also members of the Awakening Council, al-Kharki said.

On Sunday, a series of coordinated car bombings killed 19 people in the Anbar

provincial capital of Ramadi, once a hotbed of the Sunni-led insurgency.

Meanwhile, lawmakers approved the return of a limited number of British troops to Iraq to help protect the country's southern oil ports — an area where the country is lagging in its ability to provide security.

Iraq's parliament approved the security agreement with Britain months after the military contingent was forced to pull out because a United Nations mandate allowing British troops to legally operate in the country expired.

Under the agreement in parliament Tuesday, about 100 British troops would return for about a year to provide protection to the oil sites and train Iraqi forces. Iraq's president and two vice presidents still must sign off on the agreement.

The deal limits British military operations in Iraq strictly to naval operations at the southern port of Umm Qasr, said Jabir Khalifa Jabir from the parliament's oil and gas committee.

Britain had about 40,000 troops in Iraq following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, but withdrew almost all their forces earlier this year. A contingent of about 100 to 150 troops who were training Iraq's new navy remained, but those forces were moved to Kuwait when Iraq's parliament went on summer

break without agreeing to allow the British to stay.

Lawmakers loyal to anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr walked out in protest during the vote. The group, with about 30 legislators in the 275-member parliament, once staged bloody rebellions against U.S.-

led troops, and has strongly objected to any remaining foreign troops.

Iraqi lawmakers also resumed talks Tuesday on the election law—a key piece of legislation that may affect the credibility of the country's parliamentary vote in January. □



Italian U.N. peacekeeping soldiers, patrol the area following an explosion in Tayr Filsay, Lebanon, near the port city of Tyre, about six miles (10 kilometers) from the border with Israel, late Monday, Oct. 12, 2009. An explosion ripped through the garage of a Hezbollah member's home in southern Lebanon on Monday, and security officials said the building might have been used to store weapons. One senior security official said the blast killed one person, but the other officials could not confirm that. The Hezbollah militant group that holds sway in the south said no one was killed but one person was wounded.

(AP Photo/Mohammed Zaatar)

Exploding shell caused blast at Hezbollah home

BEIRUT — A blast at a Hezbollah member's home in southern Lebanon was caused by an exploding shell and injured one person, Lebanon's army said Tuesday.

Monday night's explosion occurred in a garage, and Lebanese security officials said the building might have been used to store weapons — a violation of the U.N. resolution that ended the monthlong war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006.

The blast prompted President Shimon Peres of Israel to warn that Hezbollah and its growing arsenal are turning Lebanon into a "powder keg" and standing in the way of peace.

The U.N. resolution called for Hezbollah to be disarmed and for an international arms embargo against the militant group. Israel claims Hezbollah has tripled its arsenal since the war and now has tens of thousands of rockets.

Both Hezbollah and the Lebanese army said one person was wounded in the explosion in the village of Tayr Filsay, near the southern port city of Tyre. The army statement gave no details about the shell it said caused the blast.

Hezbollah acknowledged the home belonged to one of its members. Hezbollah legislator Hussein Haj Hassan said Israel was exaggerating the incident "for political interests."

The Israeli military released footage it said was shot by one of its drones in the area. It said the video shows Hezbollah members sealing off the explosion site, recovering dozens of rockets from the home and driving them away in two covered trucks.

Michael Williams, the U.N. special coordinator for Lebanon, told reporters in Beirut the mission was concerned about the explosion. The Hezbollah-Israel war killed more than 1,200 Lebanese and 160 Israelis. □



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Palestinians say hopes in Obama 'evaporated'

By AMY TEIBEL,
Associated Press Writer
JERUSALEM

The Palestinian president's political party says all hopes in the Obama administration have "evaporated," accusing the White House of caving in to pressure from the pro-Israel lobby and backing off a demand to freeze Jewish settlement.

Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party also accused the U.S. of failing to set a clear agenda for a new round of Mideast peace talks, according to an internal memo obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"All hopes placed in the new U.S. administration and President Obama have evaporated," the document said. Obama "couldn't withstand the pressure of the Zionist lobby, which led to a retreat from his previous positions on halting settlement construction and defining an agenda for the negotiations and peace." The Palestinians

initially greeted Obama's election with enthusiasm, welcoming his outreach to the Muslim world and hoping he would depart from what they viewed as the pro-Israel bias of his predecessor, George W. Bush. Obama raised Palestinian hopes further with his repeated calls for Israel to halt all construction in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem — areas the Palestinians claim for a future state.

But in recent weeks, the U.S. appears to have softened its stance on settlements. Washington says it has not abandoned the objective of halting settlement construction, but U.S. officials have indicated they do not see this as a condition for resuming talks. The memo comes at a time of turmoil within Fatah after Abbas quickly reversed a decision to suspend efforts to bring Israel before a U.N. war crimes tribunal in connection with the Gaza war.

The document, dated Oct. 12, was issued by Fatah's Office of Mobilization and Organization. The office is headed by the party's No. 2, Mohammed Ghneim.

It was not immediately clear whether the document reflects Abbas' views or whether it was leaked to pressure Obama to bear down harder on Israel. Abbas' aides had no comment and Ghneim could not immediately be reached for comment.

The U.S. Embassy in Israel did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

The document reiterated Fatah's demand for Israel to freeze settlement construction and agree to a clear agenda for peace talks before negotiations can resume.

The Palestinians want talks to resume from the point they broke down last year under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's predecessor, Ehud Olmert. Netanyahu says he is not bound by any



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, delivers a speech at his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009.

(AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

concessions Olmert may have made.

Obama personally intervened last month, when he summoned Abbas and Netanyahu to a three-way meeting in New York. But he failed to break the impasse. The document echoes sentiments expressed by other Fatah officials. On Sunday, former Fatah strongman Mohammed Dahlan said the party "feels very disappointed

and worried by the U.S. administration retreat."

The last round of Israel-Palestinian negotiations broke down late last year with no breakthroughs on the main issues dividing the two sides: final borders, the status of disputed Jerusalem and a solution for Palestinians who lost homes and other property in Israel after it achieved statehood in 1948. □



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Yankees may go with 3-man rotation against Angels



NEW YORK (AP)—The Yankees may go with a three-man rotation against the Los Angeles Angels in the AL championship series.

CC Sabathia is scheduled to start Friday night's opener, with A.J. Burnett and Andy Pettitte and New York's other two primary starters. The shortened rotation would allow manager Joe Girardi to keep Joba Chamberlain and Chad Gaudin in the bullpen. "In the 10-day forecast that I looked at, it looks like we have some rain in the forecast, so that can change things," Girardi said Tuesday during a conference call. "But we are definitely considering possibly going to a three-man rotation in this round, but we'll have to take a look at it and see how it goes."

New York swept Minnesota in the opening round,

and used Chamberlain as a setup man in all three games. He pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings, allowing two hits, and combined with Phil Hughes and the rest of the bullpen to bolster the link between starters and closer Mariano Rivera.

"That was pretty good with us in the first round," Girardi said. "If you go to a three-man rotation, obviously he stays in the bullpen. But if you go to a four-man rotation, then we have to weigh the benefits of either of putting Joba in the bullpen or putting Chad in the bullpen."

Sabathia made his final three regular-season starts for Milwaukee on three days' rest in 2008, then started again on short rest in the playoffs against Philadelphia, lasted just 3 2-3 innings and lost.

New York limited him to 230 innings during the regular season—down from 253 the previous year. He will start the opener against the Angels on eight days' rest, another factor the Yankees think will enable him to be effective in Game 4.

"Not getting him to 250 innings during the regular season allows us to consider that," Girardi said. "We've told him, though, to concentrate on Game 1. That's the most important game, and we'll go from there." Girardi hasn't decided whether to again have Jose Molina catch Burnett instead of Posada. To do that, Girardi said he probably would have to again carry Francisco Cervelli as a third catcher, allowing the team to take out Posada for a pinch runner late in a game. □

Former IOC president Samaranch hospitalized

MONACO (AP) -- Former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch has been reportedly hospitalized following a mild heart attack.

The 89-year-old Samaranch, who headed the IOC from 1980 to 2001, collapsed while attending the Sportel international sports television festival on Tuesday, L'Equipe reported on its Web site.

He was admitted at Princess Grace Hospital Centre in Monaco. Nobody was immediately available for comment at the hospital.

Samaranch, who was succeeded as IOC president by Jacques Rogge, spent two days in a Madrid hospital two years ago after a dizzy spell.

He was hospitalized in Switzerland in 2001 for "extreme fatigue" and in Barcelona for high blood pressure. He has also received regular dialysis treatment for kidney trouble.

As honorary IOC president for life, Samaranch has continued to attend IOC meetings. □



US forward Davies hurt in car accident



ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)— U.S. national team forward Charlie Davies was injured in a one-car accident in which another person was killed early Tuesday in the Washington, D.C., area. Davies was expected to

undergo more than five hours of surgery. U.S. Soccer Federation spokesman Neil Buethe said Davies' injuries were not life-threatening. He initially said the injuries were "possibly" career-threatening but later clarified the remark. "At this point, we just don't know the extent of the injuries, so we can't comment on how this affects Charlie's future," Buethe said.

Coach Bob Bradley informed the team of the accident just before lunch.

"Obviously, as a team we were saddened to learn this news," Bradley said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Charlie and his family, as well as the other person in the car and the families of the others involved. ... We are relying on each other in a moment that has for sure hit us all hard."

U.S. Park Police Sgt. David Schlosser said the accident took place at about 3:15 a.m. Tuesday in the southbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia. Schlosser identified the fatality as Ashley J. Roberta, 22, of Phoenix, Md.



Schlosser said there were three people in the car, and that Roberta was not the driver. Davies and the other person in the car were taken to Washington Hospital Center Medstar, one by land and one by helicopter. Schlosser did not say who was driving the car, and the cause of the accident remained under investigation. The U.S. team was in Washington area to prepare for Wednesday night's World Cup qualifying game against Costa Rica.

The 23-year-old Davies has four goals in 17 international appearances. He started and played 78 minutes in the Americans' 3-2 victory over Honduras on Saturday that

clinched a berth in their sixth straight World Cup. He made his first U.S. appearance on June 2, 2007, as a substitute against China.

Born in Manchester, N.H., Davies played for Boston College before turning pro in 2006. He was a member of last year's American Olympic team and currently plays for the French club Sochaux. Davies' parents were in route to Washington on Tuesday, USSF spokesman Michael Kammarman said.

The U.S. team had an optional breakfast at its hotel Tuesday, and officials were informed of the accident around 11 a.m., just as Davies' surgery was about to begin. □

Miami Heat sign free agent guard Carlos Arroyo

MIAMI (AP) -- Carlos Arroyo is back in the NBA, and gets to stay home in Miami for that opportunity.

The Miami Heat signed Arroyo to a one-year contract Monday, which would be worth about \$1.1 million if the 30-year-old point guard remains with the club all season.

Arroyo last played in the NBA for the Orlando Magic during the 2007-08 season, spending last season in Israel.

The former FIU player still makes his home in Miami, and when the Heat called with the invitation, Arroyo was able to be at practice the very next morning.

"I always wanted to be part of the Heat," said Arroyo, whose wife is a South Florida native.

The Heat needed depth at point guard, and team officials met Saturday to discuss a number of potential candidates. They settled on Arroyo, who Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said is being brought in to play backup to starter Mario

Chalmers. But, Spoelstra added, Arroyo "will contend for minutes."

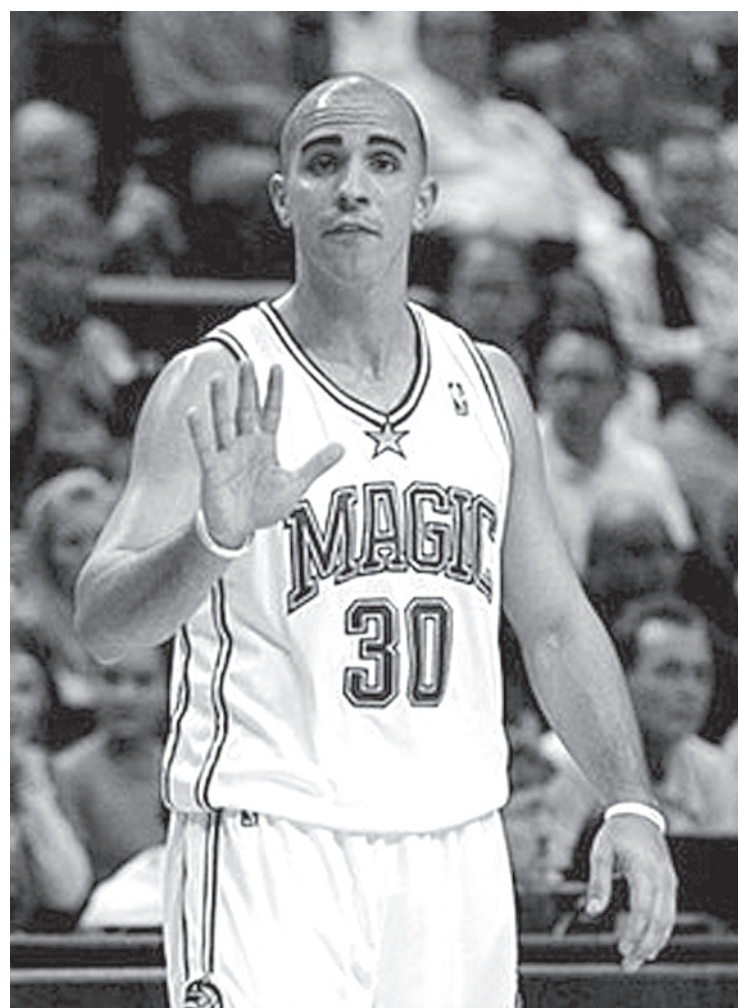
"This is about bolstering our depth," Spoelstra said.

Chris Quinn, who backed up Chalmers last season, is expected to be sidelined for about another week with a right foot injury. Miami also has John Lucas in training camp; he, like Arroyo, is on a nonguaranteed contract.

And in just about every game, the Heat turn to reigning NBA scoring champion Dwyane Wade to play some point guard as well.

Arroyo has played for five other NBA teams in seven seasons, averaging a career-best 12.6 points in 71 games with Utah during the 2003-04 campaign. He's averaged 7.0 points and 3.3 assists per game in his NBA tenure.

He played for Puerto Rico in the 2004 Olympic Games, scoring a team-high 24 points for his country when it stunned the United States 92-73 in an opening-round game. □



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Roddick retires with knee pain at Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI (AP)—Andy Roddick was forced to retire with left knee pain while leading Stanislas Wawrinka 4-3 Tuesday in the second round of the Shanghai Masters.

Roddick, who limped into the post-match news conference, quit after wasting a break point.

"I just felt I pushed off, and then Michael (Novotny, ATP trainer) came on court and did some tests and advised that it probably wasn't worth the risk," Roddick said.

Roddick is vying for one of the final three spots at the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London next month. But the sixth-ranked Roddick says he's more concerned about taking care of his health than qualifying for the eight-man event.

"At this point, my concern is more along the lines of figuring out what we're dealing with," said Roddick, who has finished the last seven seasons ranked in the top 10.

The 22nd-ranked Wawrinka will play 13th-seeded Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic in the third round.

"I hope he's going to be fine for the rest of the season," Wawrinka said of Roddick. "For sure, it's not the way you want it to go. But I'll take it and play the next match."

Junior Seau re-signs with Patriots

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) -- Junior Seau is back with the New England Patriots, coming out of retirement for a third time to sign a contract on Tuesday for a 20th season as an NFL linebacker.

The signing of the 12-time Pro Bowl player was announced by Versus, the television network on which Seau has a show. The Patriots have not announced the signing, which had been expected, although the team said he had a physical and a workout last week.

"I hope at some point he will be" with the Patriots, club owner Robert Kraft said at the NFL owners meeting in Boston. "He's a unique individual. I'd love to have him part of our team for as long as he wants to."

Seau, 40, should have a better chance of standing up to running backs than he did to a rodeo bull, which knocked him down on one of the episodes of "Sports Jobs with Junior Seau."

He came out of retirement last year to play the final four games with the Patriots after playing 27 games with them in 2006 and 2007.

A week before New England began its 2009 season, Seau

said that would be the only team he'd consider playing for and would be willing to play up to six games. The Patriots, who have a record of 3-2, have 11 games left.

"I'm very fortunate and honored to be involved with two class organizations - the New England Patriots and Versus," Seau said Tuesday on the network's web site. "I want to thank the management of both for making my return to the NFL with the New England Patriots a reality." □



Lleyton Hewitt defeated John Isner of the United States 6-2, 6-4. Hewitt saved both break points he faced.

Hewitt said he's pleased with his progress since hip surgery in August 2008.

"This year was always going to be tough purely because I didn't exactly know how the hip was going to bounce back," Hewitt said. "I've got better as the year has gone on. My hip's got a lot stronger and better, and that makes life a lot easier on the court." □

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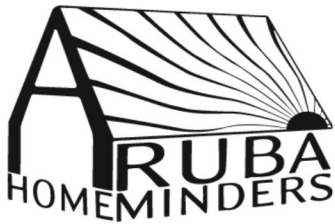
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Reinicia diálogo con árido punto sobre restitución Zelaya

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Delegados del Gobierno de facto de Honduras y del derrocado presidente Manuel Zelaya reanudaron el martes conversaciones con el espinoso tema de la restitución del mandatario, pero uno de sus negociadores se levantó de la mesa al rehusarse a ceder sobre algunos puntos.

Juan Barahona, uno de los líderes del movimiento de resistencia desde el golpe de Estado del 28 de junio, abandonó el diálogo poco después de recomenzar porque una exigencia es que Zelaya renuncie a su aspiración de establecer una Asamblea Constituyente que abra paso a la reelección presidencial.

Zelaya fue derrocado el mismo día en que planeaba realizar una consulta popular como primer paso para establecer una Asamblea Constituyente que reformara la carta magna y permitiera la reelección, según sus detractores influenciado por su aliado

venezolano Hugo Chávez.

“Estaba en la mesa renunciando a un tema tan importante para nosotros que es la Constituyente”, dijo Barahona a periodistas al salirse de la reunión con delegados del presidente de facto, Roberto Micheletti.

“Después de que yo he salido, se va a continuar con el punto 6 del Acuerdo de San José, que es la restitución del presidente Zelaya”, agregó.

Los negociadores están dialogando sobre la base de una propuesta del presidente costarricense, Oscar Arias, que incluye devolver el poder a Zelaya, actualmente refugiado en la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa y bajo amenaza de ser arrestado si sale de la sede.

“La restitución de Zelaya al poder es innegociable”, dijo a Reuters Beatriz Valle, vicescanciller del depuesto gobernante. Ese tema es el más espinoso en las conversaciones e hizo naufragar negociaciones anteriores



Partidarios del depuesto presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, toma un descanso tras una protesta en los suburbios en Tegucigalpa, 12 oct 2009. REUTERS/Oswaldo Rivas

ante la intransigencia de Micheletti de permitir el regreso al poder del depuesto líder y la postura de Zelaya

de poner su restitución como condición no claudicable. □

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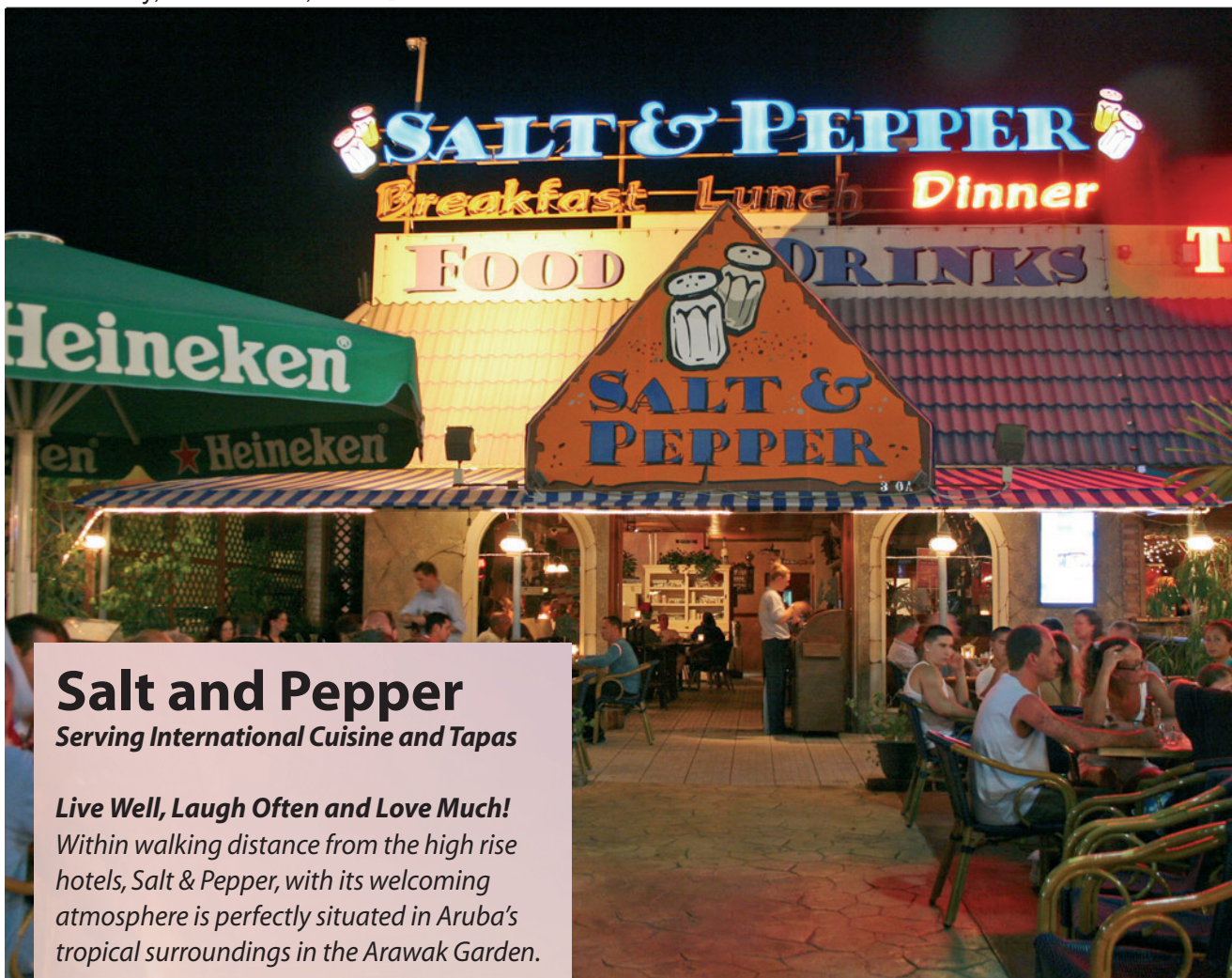
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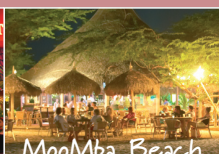
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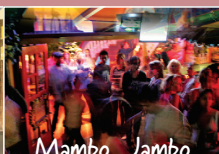
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